

Sports:
Eric Davis—two homers for the Reds
page 9

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Leonid Sharanovsky (right) takes a walk through the capital's German Colony on his first day in Jerusalem, together with his brother Natan (Anatoly) and his 1 1/2-year-old son Boris. Leonid, his mother Ida Milgrom, his wife Raya and their two children arrived in Israel on Monday night after leaving the Soviet Union. "I'm very happy that the case of Sharanovsky has ended and we can begin a new life," Leonid said. He added that it would take him some time to get used to life in Israel. "It's too hot for me here," he said. "Even the food we just ate is new for us." A mechanical engineer, Leonid said he would rest and become more familiar with the country before looking for a job. (Scoop 80)

Restoration of diplomatic ties formally announced in Yaounde Israel, Cameroon flay apartheid

Jerusalem Post Staff and agencies
YAOUNDE. — Prime Minister Peres joined Cameroon President Paul Biya yesterday in a sweeping call for an end to apartheid as the two leaders formally announced the renewal of diplomatic ties between their nations.
The joint statement issued here in Cameroon's capital stressed the wish of both countries "to do everything to dismantle this odious system" of apartheid "in order that a free, multi-racial and democratic society is established in South Africa which gives everyone equal chances of access to happiness and dignity."
The two sides said the situation in southern Africa caused by apartheid holds the risk of "a generalized explosion in the sub-region."
Peres made a point of saying after the release of the statement that no true Jew could favour apartheid since the basis of the Jewish religion is anti-racist.
Peres's sharp comments on South Africa came as sources in Paris said that four more black African states are weighing renewing diplomatic ties with Israel.
The sources listed Guinea, Gabon, Togo and the Central African Republic as considering the re-establishment of ties.
Peres yesterday told reporters with him on his two-day visit to Cameroon that Biya had said leaders of other African countries are also ready to renew relations.
He said Biya had named the other countries but had asked that their identities be kept secret.
Sources in Jerusalem said Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi had rejected tentative Israeli approaches about a possible meeting with Peres on the prime minister's way back from Cameroon.
Soon after the release of the joint statement, Peres and his delegation left Yaounde by Cameroonian jet for the international airport at Cameroon's main port city of Douala. From there Peres flew to Israel in an Air Force jet. He was expected to arrive late last night.
The prime minister was seen off at the Yaounde airport by Biya, accompanied by dancers, chanters and drummers.
Peres said he was impressed by his warm reception in Yaounde, where residents had lined the streets to greet him Monday in a government-sponsored demonstration.

1,500 dead, corpses everywhere, whole villages wiped out Devastation in disaster area

YAOUNDE, Cameroon (AP). — At least 1,534 people were killed by toxic gas released from a remote volcanic lake, a UN relief agency reported yesterday. Witnesses said they saw streets littered with corpses and entire villages where every trace of life was wiped out.
The worst hit village was Nios, where some 700 inhabitants lived beside the volcanic lake of the same name.
The usually transparent waters of the 2-square-kilometre lake have turned bright red, a sign that experts interpreted as a warning of possible further lethal gas explosions.
A French rescue team that reached the scene yesterday said only two persons survived in and around the village. By contrast, there was not a single victim among the inhabitants of Upper Nios, a separate village on high ground only a few hundred metres away.
Israeli and French doctors in the stricken area who are organizing the massive relief operation said their main immediate concern was to prevent an epidemic. Teams of helpers were busy burying the victims in mass graves. Dead animals were also being buried.
One doctor said many of the survivors had serious lung lesions and were in danger of contracting pneumonia. The rare hospitals in the region were overflowing with hundreds of casualties, some sleeping two or three in a bed.
In Geneva, the UN disaster relief organization reported that 1,534 bodies had been counted and others were still being discovered. More than 7,000 dead cattle have been counted, according to Israeli rescue workers.
The stricken region is a hilly English-speaking part of this mostly French-language country whose territory formerly comprised colonies ruled by France and Britain.
In the nearby town of Wum, Kenneth Kribby, a Canadian Baptist missionary, said after visiting the scene yesterday many bodies still remained in their grass or mud huts and have not been reported because in many families no one was left alive.
In the lakeside village of Soubo, he said, more than half the Baptist congregation of 300 people died in the disaster. "But, curiously, no one living on higher ground was affected," he said.
François Leguern, of the French National Centre for Scientific Research, who is investigating the disaster, said the bright red colour of the lake was a warning of possible further outbreaks to come. He said the red water was due to particles of laterite mud, indicating continuing underwater volcanic activity.
Leguern said the disaster was caused by a huge bubble of heavy volcanic gas long trapped in the lake and released by an explosion deep

The Israeli medical team

The IDF's medical aid team to Cameroon has reached the disaster zone and started work. The team was organized only three hours before Prime Minister Shimon Peres left for that country early Monday morning, following an urgent request from Yaounde, the IDF spokesman reported yesterday.
One section of the aid team included a medical adviser on toxicology and a medical adviser on the detection and identification of toxic gases.
The other section included five doctors headed by Aluf-Mishne Dr. Michael Viner, a specialist in internal medicine and intensive care, two experts in intensive care and resuscitation, a specialist in internal medicine and infectious tropical diseases, a specialist in general surgery with an extensive knowledge in resuscitation, and 10 medics, some of them instructors at the IDF military medical school.

Source in Shin Bet probe: 'Shalom has implicated politicians in affair'

By BARBARA AMOUYAL
For The Jerusalem Post
Shin Bet head Avraham Shalom implicated the political echelon in a recent police interrogation. The Jerusalem Post has learned.
Authoritative police sources confirmed reports that Shalom was questioned on Monday by the team investigating the GSS affair and alluded to "incriminating developments" as a result of Shalom's testimony.
Police Inspector-General David Kraus is most likely to invite the deputy premier for questioning within the next few weeks, it has been learned.
Kraus reportedly prefers to wait until all four Shin Bet executives give testimony before inviting political officials for questioning.
It has been learned that former cabinet secretary Dan Meridor has been mediating between the outgoing Shin Bet chief and Shamir in an attempt to legally explain the "permission and authority" to which Shalom alluded in his pardon request last May.
A high level police source said he is "well aware" of Meridor's involvement in the affair, and insisted that to date, the MK's involvement is "technically legal and acceptable."
The source warned, however, that if the police discover that Meridor "overstepped his advisory status," then he, too, may be invited to explain his participation in the ongoing investigation.

Struggle on for Gur's job

By ROY ISACOWITZ
Jerusalem Post Reporter
A low-key struggle has begun among the Labour Party MKs who hope to replace Health Minister Mordechai Gur in the cabinet after rotation.
According to sources close to Gur, the minister has decided that he will not serve in a cabinet headed by Yitzhak Shamir. Gur himself was unavailable for comment last night.
Among the leading contenders for Gur's cabinet seat would be Knesset Labour caucus chairman Rafi Eder, party secretary-general Uzi Baram and Deputy Finance Minister Adi Amrani.
Prime Minister Peres reportedly would prefer that Gur's place not be filled, with his resignation balancing that of justice minister Yitzhak Moda'i recently.



Vice Premier Shamir enjoys a conversation with South Lebanon Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad and Uri Lubrani, the Israeli government's coordinator of activities in Lebanon, at Lahad's headquarters in Marjayoun yesterday. (Yitzhak Elberar)

Rambam to do liver transplants

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
HAIFA. — Health Minister Mordechai Gur, yesterday designated the Rambam government hospital as the country's centre for liver transplants.
The hospital will be able to carry out "urgent" transplants almost immediately, Gur told a press conference.
The health minister chose the Haifa hospital over Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital as part of an effort to decentralize medical services and because Rambam's Dr. Yigal Kam, who specialized in liver transplants in Pittsburgh, "is undoubtedly the best man to head the unit."
Initially about five transplants a year will be carried out, at an estimated cost of \$20,000-45,000, compared to about \$200,000 to have the operation abroad.
Gur welcomed yesterday's blessing on the project from former chief rabbi Shlomo Goren and said the question of Jewish law and transplants should be thrashed out "discreetly and quietly" by surgeons and rabbis. (See report, page 2.)
"This life-saving operation must not become a bone of public contention," he said. "It must be treated with understanding and cooperation, without ideological arguments, keeping in mind the life-saving aspect."
Rambam will send surgeons and nurses abroad for training to establish a full transplant team within half a year. The hospital will also resume kidney transplants which it pioneered in Israel, as an integral part of its transplant operations.
Gur noted that currently between 150 to 250 Israelis seek surgery abroad each year, but said they receive only minimal assistance, mainly in tax exemptions. They spent some \$7.5m. annually, much of it raised from public donations. Since Rambam will be unable to provide all liver transplants, especially for children, "I fear the private fund raising will continue."
The ministry would need an extra NIS 100 million to provide the public with all the operations it needs within a reasonable time.

Shamir tours security zone

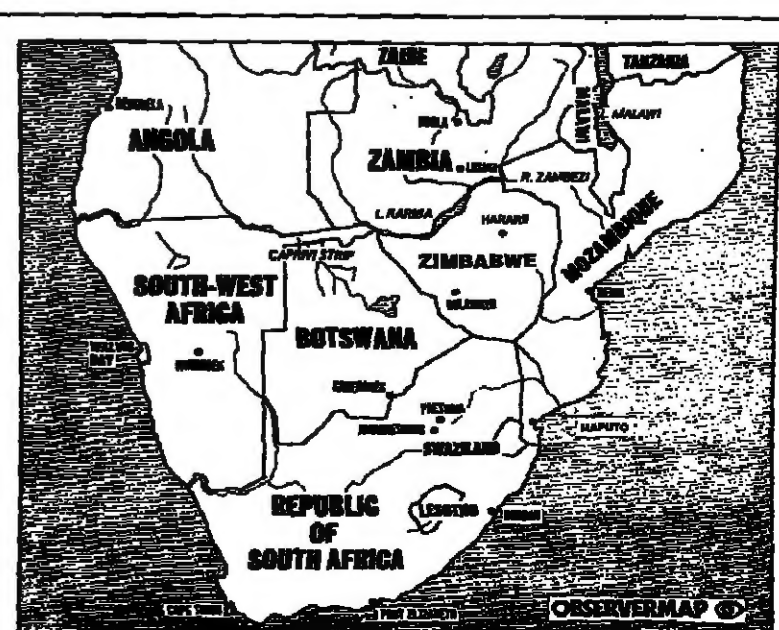
By BENNY MORRIS
Post Diplomatic Correspondent
While Prime Minister Peres was away holding aloft African babies, his deputy, Foreign Minister Shamir, spent yesterday beaming at Arab infants in the South Lebanon security zone, and otherwise learning about Israel's problems along the northern border. Shamir's aides, however, dismissed suggestions that the minister was out to steal a bit of the limelight from the man he is to replace as premier in two months' time.
Be that as it may, the meeting in a dusty mountain-top local HQ with a batch of high-grade IDF infantrymen, who serve as advisers to the South Lebanese Army, may have forced Shamir, who until then had been all smiles, to sit up for a second and take note. Prodding by the unit commanders, the new chief liaison officer in South Lebanon, Tat-Aluf David Agmon, and the new O/C Northern Command, Aluf Yossi Peled, all failed to draw any questions from the rank and file sitting on benches opposite the foreign minister. There was embarrassment all round. So a sergeant-major, and then an officer took it upon themselves to start explaining.
Then a soldier piped up: "How long are we going to remain in the (security) strip? I feel superfluous here. Will we ever withdraw from here?"
Shamir stared at the soldier, and then answered: No, we don't have plans to say here forever. No, we don't have any interest in permanently occupying parts of Lebanon. But we will stay as long as it is considered essential for the maintenance of the security of the state. (Continued on Page 2, Col. 7)

ANALYSIS BENNY MORRIS

One can conjecture that, similarly, if and when Togo, Gabon, Kenya and the Central African Republic decide to renew ties, Israel will not offer to sacrifice its South Africa connection and no country will make its renewal contingent on such a sacrifice.
But as with all nations, black Africa's states have certain ideological or political-moral norms to which lip service must be paid from time to time.
A major norm of this order is the repudiation of racism and South Africa's ideology and regime, which are based on apartheid. At each Organization of African Unity conference and at each meeting of the non-aligned states the anti-South African resolutions are enunciated.
And they must be trotted out, as well, whenever contacts are made with Israel — because Israel, in non-aligned parlance, is a European colonialist state almost automatically coupled with South Africa.
So whenever restored relations with a black African state are near, Israel is inevitably called upon to join loudly and publicly in the vilification of South Africa and apartheid: the lip service of dissociation from and exorcism of Pretoria is now an ineluctable part of the ritual.
And so, before and during the journey to Yaounde, both Prime Minister Peres and Foreign Minister Director-General David Kimche once again loudly identified with the tenets of the black African political consensus. Peres reportedly even declared that a Jew who supports apartheid is not a Jew. (Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

Tanzam Railway — Southern Africa's freedom trail

By ALASTAIR MATHESON
MBEYA, Tanzania. — Two slender ribbons of steel stretching about 1,800 kilometres through the African bush have become the focus of attention for many people in southern Africa since the "sanctions war" began escalating.
These steel ribbons comprise the single-track railway which opened with a fanfare of publicity in 1976, when its Chinese builders christened it "The Great Uhuru (freedom) Railway." Today it is better known as the Tazara or Tanzania Railway, and gives landlocked Zambia access to the sea at the Tanzanian port of Dar es Salaam.
Not only in Zambia, but in Zimbabwe, Malawi and even Botswana, people are now hoping that this "back-door route" would enable them to avoid some of the more serious hardships likely to follow if and when the South African government turns the screws tighter on their trade passing through its territory. Already traffic is piling up because of strict new import controls and levies imposed by Pretoria.
It is doubtful whether this \$230 million railway line, built by 5,000 Chinese labourers and local workers with a loan from Peking, will be able to cope with the enormous strain that could be placed on it. Today it can carry only about half the expected capacity of less than 1 million tons a year. Its original purpose was to carry Zambia's copper to the sea and make Zambia less dependent on South African rail and port facilities.
Now, however, in another decade, copper is no longer the magic metal it was, giving much prosperity to Zambia. When the line was put to the test it also proved inadequate in many respects. The locomotives were underpowered for hauling mineral trains up the steep escarpments in southern Tanzania and, during heavy rains, serious wash-aways halted traffic for long periods.
There was also friction between the two governments over allegations of slow operations.
Now that pressure is building up for the railway to play a much greater role in the future, the authorities are taking a fresh look at the situation. If the line is also to serve Zimbabwe and Botswana, possibly with a spur to Malawi as well, development may be needed.
Tanzanian President Hassan Ali Mwinyi has decreed that in future the port facilities at Dar es Salaam will be reserved exclusively for goods to and from neighbouring states, and Tanzanians will have to use two minor ports for their requirements.
Zimbabwe is already talking of the Tazara Railway as "our future lifeline," and recently President Kaunda of Zambia sent his prime minister to inspect the present facilities at Dar es Salaam. He was closely followed by a senior minister from Botswana on a similar mission.
Efforts to rehabilitate the railway began last year, and it is expected that when a \$150 million modernization is completed traffic can be increased to 2.2 million tons a year. West Germany has already come to the rescue with some powerful new diesel locomotives and China is to help strengthen the track in places.
Security is tight all along the length of the track. The Tanzanians have made the line and strips on either side a prohibited area following an explosion which wrecked a pumping station on the oil pipeline which runs to Zambia along the same route. The Zambians followed suit when a bridge was wrecked on the only road link between the two countries.



The weather at major Swissair destinations

26.8.86

	MIN.	MAX.	C	F	W
AMSTERDAM	12	16	14	57	Cloudy
BRUSSELS	12	16	14	57	Cloudy
BIRMINGHAM	12	16	14	57	Cloudy
CHICAGO	12	16	14	57	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	12	16	14	57	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	12	16	14	57	Cloudy
GENEVA	12	16	14	57	Cloudy
HONG KONG	28	32	30	86	Clear
JERUSALEM	12	16	14	57	Cloudy
LONDON	12	16	14	57	Cloudy
MADRID	12	16	14	57	Cloudy
MONTREAL	12	16	14	57	Cloudy
NEW YORK	12	16	14	57	Cloudy
OSLO	12	16	14	57	Cloudy
PARIS	12	16	14	57	Cloudy
ROME	12	16	14	57	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	12	16	14	57	Cloudy
TOKYO	28	32	30	86	Clear
VIENNA	12	16	14	57	Cloudy
ZURICH	12	16	14	57	Cloudy

*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

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THE WEATHER

	Yesterday's	Today's	Max
Jerusalem	44	17-27	28
Golan	44	17-27	28
Nahariya	54	25-31	31
Safed	57	17-27	28
Haifa Port	38	25-36	36
Tiberias	49	23-30	31
Nazareth	43	21-32	33
Afula	43	21-32	33
Shimon	45	19-30	31
Tel Aviv	56	22-30	30
B-G Airport	45	22-31	31
Jericho	38	22-34	37
Gaza	55	22-38	39
Beerseba	38	22-32	33
Eilat	23	26-38	39

DEVASTATION

(Continued from Page One)

down in the waters of the long-dormant crater.

"The gas was heavier than the air, so those on low ground were the first victims," he said.

"It was as though a neutron bomb had exploded," Father Fred Tern Horn, a Dutch Roman Catholic missionary, was quoted as saying by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

"Nothing was destroyed, but every living thing was killed."

Horn said he travelled in a group 50km. from his mission station in Wum to the stricken area.

"In the first village we came to, we found men, women and animals stretched out dead on the ground, some in front of their huts or in their beds, some on the road."

The group met some survivors from other villages who displayed serious skin burns and complained of burning in their lungs. But in Nios, Horn said, all the inhabitants, their animals and their plants were dead.

Horn said all witnesses agreed that the explosion that released the lethal cloud from the lake occurred late Thursday, not on Friday as reported earlier, because of the distances, the poor highways and the absence of telephone links. News of the disaster did not reach the outside world until late Friday.

Cameroon troops in gas masks were still scouring the many villages of grass and mud huts scattered across the fertile but mountainous region, searching for further victims.

The London Daily Mail quoted a graphic account of the scene given by a local missionary identified only as Brother Richard.

"There was a gigantic explosion beneath the lake releasing a huge cloud of gas which I estimate wiped out 90 per cent of the inhabitants in the villages along the shore," he said.

"The gas cloud destroyed all life. There was no fire...but this gas was so toxic that everything withered, people, animals, and plants. The former rain forest area, which was all green, today resembles a huge wasteland."

The lake lies in the centre of an ancient - usually dormant - volcanic crater.

One widely held theory was that a relatively minor volcanic eruption deep in the crater released a long-trapped bubble of lethal gas, possibly hydrogen sulphide or another naturally formed poison, which rose to the surface and spread silently across the flat land beside the lake.

The gas was apparently heavier than the air and did not mix with it, so those on the ground breathed in a full concentration of it before they realized they were being poisoned. Some survivors spoke of a heavy odour of rotten eggs. An unidentified local missionary told Radio France International:

"The whole area is devastated. There are about 2,000 dead. There are many, many orphans whose parents were killed. The children are wandering about, feeling lost. It is an immense tragedy."

The Cameroon authorities flew a group of foreign reporters over the lake and then landed them at the nearest airstrip - in the provincial capital of Bamenda - 350km. north-west of Yaounde.

They were due to continue their journey to Nios on the unpaved roads. The reporters had arrived on Monday to cover the official visit of Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, which was largely overshadowed by the disaster.

Communications with the Lake Nios area were virtually nonexistent. The volcanic region around the lake was hard to reach on the winding dirt-track roads.

Teams of doctors, nurses and medical equipment were flying in from France and the U.S. They included a number of volcano experts.

HOME NEWS

Kollek tells government:

Capital's schools deserve more aid

By BERNARD JOSEPHS
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek yesterday blasted the government for putting West Bank settlements ahead of the capital in the queue for school buildings.

Kollek also warned that in new neighbourhoods, such as Gilo and Ramot, the shortage of classroom space has reached crisis proportions.

Speaking at a press conference on education in Jerusalem, Kollek said: "When a new settlement goes up in Judea and Samaria, a new school, a kindergarten and a synagogue all go up with it. Nothing like the same concern is shown for Jerusalem. We are forced to fight for every school, every synagogue. It is completely unjustified discrimination."

Kollek and city education chief

Michael Gal reported that the number of pupils in Jerusalem in the coming school year would reach nearly 107,000 - an increase of 4 per cent on last year.

This, together with a critical shortage of cash, would mean severe overcrowding in several districts.

Said Gal: "Har Nof, Pisgat Ze'ev, Gilo and Ramot are the worst-hit places. Without immediate government help there is no solution to the problem."

The slashing of school budgets would also hamper city plans to boost the level of technological education. It is almost impossible to purchase new equipment, said Gal.

Special problems were being faced in the Arab sector, Kollek added. Some 7,000 youngsters are believed

to have "escaped" the school system completely, and only one inspector is available to deal with them. There is a serious shortage of classrooms in the Arab sector, too.

However, the mayor insisted, the picture is not all gloomy. "We are proud of our education department and of what it has achieved under very difficult conditions. We have made great progress in technological education. We have seen considerable strides towards parent participation in the schools. We have hardly any truancy and we have greatly improved the appearance of school buildings."

"In addition we have seen a lot of progress in education for the disabled and for those with learning problems."

U.S. renewing squeeze on Libya

SANTA BARBARA, California.

The U.S. ambassador to the UN, Vernon Walters, will visit Europe soon to renew American pressure for sanctions against Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, a senior administration official said this week.

Walters, a veteran troubleshooter on sensitive international issues, is to leave for Europe around the end of this month and spend a few days there, the official said.

The U.S. has ordered the carrier Forrester to cancel a scheduled port call and to resume patrols late this week in the Central Mediterranean north of Libya. U.S. officials said yesterday.

The Forrester had been scheduled to steam for a port call in Haifa, following the completion Thursday of a joint exercise with Egyptian forces.

Sources said the plans were changed because Defence Department officials at the Pentagon want to keep at least one carrier at sea in the region.

The White House said on Monday it would retaliate appropriately if Gaddafi supported acts of terrorism against Americans. But the senior official said military planners are not

preparing for a specific U.S. attack against Libya.

Officials in Washington said reports indicate Gaddafi, possibly using hard-to-trace "surrogates" such as Palestinian Arabs, appeared to be planning attacks against U.S. interests in West Germany. They expressed concern for the safety of the U.S. ambassador there, Richard Burt.

Officials said evidence has mounted in recent weeks that Gaddafi has shaken off personal stress caused by the April bombing raid on Libya. They declined to be more specific, but one noted that Gaddafi had reportedly been driven into seclusion by the U.S. raids and added:

"We knew that wouldn't last. There have been a number of indicators for some weeks now that things are beginning to stir again - that the hiatus will soon be over."

In Tripoli, Libya's "revolutionary committees" have called for attacks on U.S. interests as part of stepped-up activity around the world.

Diplomats say the strident tone of their communiques reflects a resurgence of militancy in the movement

after a lull following the April U.S. raids.

The Tripoli committees, set up by Gaddafi nine years ago, approved a "revolutionary plan of action" and pledged to achieve their goals "through all means - even revolutionary violence" when they met on August 19-21.

A statement published in local newspapers said the plan calls for "unity and alliance with revolutionary forces in the world to fight and defeat the enemies of freedom - imperialism, Zionism, racism, fascism and reaction, at the head of which is the enemy of mankind, the enemy of freedom, America."

Tripoli radio last night also called for the overthrow of Egyptian President Mubarak.

In Moscow, a delegation of Libyan officials met with Vice President Piyotr Demichev and the two sides "expressed serious concern over the tense situation around Libya" brought on by the U.S., Tass said yesterday.

Libya has close relations with the Soviet Union, but the two nations have been unable to reach agreement on a formal treaty of friendship and cooperation. (Reuters, AP)



Israel will soon be exporting officially recognized Arabian purebred horses, like this one from Arieli ranch in Bnei Zion, to the U.S. Haim Bar-Lev, police minister and chairman of the Israeli Arabian Horse Association, said at a Tel Aviv press conference yesterday that the association had received official American recognition - meaning that Israeli-bred Arabian horses are now acceptable for export to the U.S. The U.S. recognition came after American experts came here to check the Israeli Arabian Horse Registry, Bar-Lev said, and opens up the world's largest horse market. Uri Arieli, owner of the Arieli ranch, said that Egyptian Arabian horses of the type he raises can sell for \$100,000-\$200,000, but went for \$40,000 in Israel - making them a bargain for the American buyer.

(Ron Erde)

CAMEROON

(Continued from Page One)

The statement on resumed relations, read to reporters in French and Hebrew, said talks between Peres and Biya had taken place "in an atmosphere of frankness and mutual comprehension."

Peres told reporters that one of the chief topics was his meeting last month with King Hassan II of Morocco.

Peres's visit was overshadowed by a volcanic gas eruption which killed over 1,500 people in northwest Cameroon.

Israel has placed great importance on restoring diplomatic relations with Cameroon, one of 29 African countries that severed ties during the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Cameroon is the fourth of these countries to re-establish ties, following Zaire, Liberia and Ivory Coast.

Informal relations between Cameroon and Israel have existed since 1981. They intensified when Biya, a Roman Catholic, took over from Moslem former president Amadou Ahidjo.

The managing director of the Solel Boneh construction firm, Elud Shilo, who accompanied Peres to Yaounde, remained there to meet with government ministers on planning joint projects, Israel Radio reported yesterday.

Solel Boneh, which has been carrying out projects in Cameroon for the last 25 years, plans to invest a further \$150m. in that country, the radio reported.

Kach members in brawl

By JOEL GREENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Rock throwing broke out yesterday between Kach activists and Arab youths from Silwan after Kach members entered the East Jerusalem neighbourhood while on a clean-up campaign at a neighbouring Jewish cemetery opposite the Mount of Olives.

Some 25 Kach members arrived at the ancient cemetery yesterday to

clear away garbage and to mend a fence. Police said fistfights and rock throwing began when Kach members entered Silwan.

Police broke up the brawl and arrested 15 Kach members and one Arab youth. Three Kach members were still being held last night on suspicion of armed threats and assault. The Arab was also remained in custody and was suspected of rock throwing.

Death threat for moderate Arab leader

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

ACRE. - A moderate Arab leader here has received a death threat from a radical group, apparently because of his public expressions in support of Israel.

The threat against town councillor Mohammed Sha'arban was contained in a leaflet with the heading "The dogs will not continue to bark."

Hundreds of copies of the handbills were distributed yesterday among Arab residents of the city's densely populated old quarter.

The leaflets, printed in Arabic by the nationalist "Sons of the Village" movement, were apparently a reaction to Sha'arban's statements in a local newspaper.

In the article, Sha'arban called on Israeli Arabs to be loyal to the state and to serve in the IDF.

He maintained this was the best way to ensure equality with Jewish citizens.

Sha'arban, who said he had brought up his 15 sons not to hate Jews, was also quoted as saying he would prefer to live in Israel rather than in a Palestinian state.

The leaflets contained threats to eliminate Sha'arban and any other Arabs who expressed similar views.

One part read that the people of Acre, which had bred Arab heroes in the past, would "know how to deal with worthless Zionist agents."

Bail for suspect in land-fraud case

NABLUS (Itim).

A prominent West Bank Arab land-dealer held in connection with suspected fraud and bribery was released yesterday on bail by the military court here.

Ahmed Odeh, of the village of Khaleh near Kfar Sava, was released on NIS 300,000 bail and will be restricted to his home for two weeks.

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U.S. basketball star Isaiah Thomas attends a reception last night at Jerusalem's King David Hotel. Thomas, the 1.85 metre centre of the National Basketball Association's Detroit Pistons, is here with Los Angeles Laker star centre "Magic" Johnson on a private visit as guests of Hazak, the basketball organization. Also pictured are local basketball star Tal Brody (right) and William Davidson (centre) of Israel Bonds.

Goren backs liver transplants - but other rabbis not sure

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Former Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren yesterday welcomed the decision of the Health Ministry to establish a liver-transplant centre at the Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

But other rabbis said there were still serious questions about whether such operations conformed to Jewish law.

Rabbi Yehoshua Sheinberger, the "health minister" of the ultra-Orthodox Eda Haredit, told The Jerusalem Post that most rabbis in Israel still oppose transplants because there may be serious doubts about establishing the time of death of the donor. Goren was the only

rabbi to have given his approval and "I would like to see his opinion in writing," said Sheinberger.

Goren expressed his views to an *Itim* reporter in Haifa. The former chief rabbi said that it would be a *mitzva* for a bereaved family to agree to such a transplant. Every improvement in the level of health is a part of the saving of life, he added.

Goren insisted that the donor for such a transplant had to be "judged dead in every way," but rabbinical authorities in Israel, as well as some medical authorities abroad, have cast doubt on whether a liver transplant donor can actually be clinically dead.

In a recent article in the British daily, *The Guardian*, some doctors were quoted as saying that in their eagerness to find donors, doctors were hasty to "pull the plug" on some accident victims. This was especially true, they suggested, on Thursday afternoons, when doctors were eager to complete their transplant operations in time to go off for the weekend.

The Chief Rabbinate has set up a committee of rabbis and doctors to examine the transplant question. A spokesman for the rabbinate said that the committee's recommendations were expected in the "near future."

PRETORIA TIES

(Continued from Page One)

This is more shadow than substance, tone rather than content. But what is of substance is Israel's gradual adoption of the West's acceptance in the last few years of the essence of the black African consensus, the moral unacceptability of apartheid.

Israel became alert to apartheid's evil in the wake of Western sensibilities, protests and resolutions. And as part of the West politically and in moral outlook, Israel is being dragged into following suit on all levels of political behaviour.

This has meant that in recent years Israel has joined the West and Africa in international votes of censure of apartheid, and has limited ministerial-level contacts. In the past year, it has reluctantly, grudgingly acquiesced in the prospect of imposing economic sanctions against Pretoria, should the West decide on and impose such sanctions.

Officially, Israel remains opposed to the idea of sanctions on three counts.

Israel has itself for decades been a victim of Arab economic sanctions. Agreeing to sanctions against another state would only legitimize the Arab boycott against Israel.

And Israel, using past experience

with sanctions as a guide - such as against Italy in 1935-36 and sanctions against Rhodesia in the late 1960s and early 1970s - believes that economic sanctions are ultimately ineffective. They can always be circumvented and their effect neutralized.

Lastly, Israel argues that imposing sanctions against South Africa would in the end hurt black Africans - inside South Africa and in South Africa's neighbours, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola - more than it would hurt Pretoria.

But while nationally opposed to sanctions, Israel during the past year has turned around and now agrees to join in economic sanctions against South Africa should the West impose them.

By the West, of course, Jerusalem means the "moderate" Western states, with emphasis on the U.S. If the U.S. imposes sanctions, Israel, reluctantly, will follow suit.

The feeling in Jerusalem is that should Washington adopt this stance, based on solid moral arguments, Israel can reject it and not follow suit only at its own peril. Support of Israel in the U.S. and Israeli claims upon such support are based on moral postulates. "Immoral" Israeli behaviour might entail loss of such support.

Technion keeps mum on visit of IAI chairman to China

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER

HAIFA. - The Technion yesterday declined to confirm reports that Technion President Josef Singer is at present visiting China, or that he has any plans to do so.

The institution's spokeswoman would tell The Jerusalem Post only that Singer, who is ending his four-year term in October, left Israel on August 3 on a seven-week trip to Technion societies in England, France, Japan and the U.S., accompanied by his wife Shoshana.

Before Singer left, there was talk of a possible visit to China too, and *Ha'aretz* said earlier this week that he was in fact in China now. The spokeswoman told The Post that she did not know where the president was at the moment.

Singer, an aeronautical engineer, was responsible while serving with the Israel Aircraft Industry for the

production of the Kfir fighter, and is a strong supporter of the Lavi fighter project. He was recently appointed chairman of the IAI.

A year ago two Israeli aeronautical engineers attended an international congress on jet engines in China, one of the participants, Prof. Ya'acov Tinnat of the Technion, told The Post on his return that he had been greatly impressed by the advance of China's science and technology and expressed the opinion that the Chinese might well be interested in what Israel has to offer them.

SHAMIR

(Continued from Page One)

nance of security in northern Israel.

Another soldier suggested that the press had been sticking its nose into military and security matters, such as the General Security Service affair. Wasn't it bad for the army to be exposed to open criticism? he asked.

Well, replied Shamir, you've touched a raw spot. But that's the price of democracy, a free press.

The press must curb itself, Shamir said, adding that he regretted the IDF censor's "lack of intervention" against publication of various facts. He did not elaborate.

Earlier, Shamir met the South Lebanese Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad, in the general's HQ in Marjayoun. Much of the talk focused on the problem of Unifil, with which the SLA and, more rarely, the IDF, has had problems.

Lahad's approach to Unifil is simple. "It has no role, either positive or negative, to play in the area," is how he put it to newsmen later.

Shamir was more circumspect, his thinking apparently affected by the growing belief in the IDF that the UN force's presence has a positive, if limited, effect in deterring terrorist incursions on the zone and on northern Israel.

Lahad, speaking to reporters, accused Unifil's commander of coming to the area and viewing the situation "with prejudice," meaning antipathy towards the SLA and sympathy for the Shi'ite Amal militia (whom the Unifil OC earlier this week reportedly called "freedom fighters").

The tour ended with Shamir's visit to Northern Command HQ in Galilee, where he heard a review of the IDF's deployment, especially in view of the Syrian threat. Shamir, speaking later to journalists, described that threat as "major" and "constant" but said that Israel "has no need to draw red lines (which the Syrians must not cross in Lebanon) in advance."

However, he remains worried, given Syrian "intentions" and military build-up.

To Judy Hill and Family

We share your deep sorrow, on the sudden passing of our dear

Prof. MOSHE HILL

Malika and Dondon Feldman and children

To Judy Hill and her children, Batsheva, Eli and Naomi

Our deep and sincere condolences on the death of your dear husband and father

MOSHE

The English Department University of Haifa

In deep sorrow, we announce the death in Santiago of our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

BEATRIZ FINKELSTEIN

The Senierman and Bolotnikoff Families in Israel and Chile

In sorrow we announce the death of our dear

F

Kaddoumi meets French foreign minister

Brouhaha over Chirac's comment on Palestinians

By MICHEL ZLOTOWSKI
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

PARIS. — France seems to have reassessed its policy on the Palestinian issue — but some French officials deny this.

The first indication of a possible shift came on August 15 with the publication by *Yedioth Aharonot* of an interview with Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, in which he was quoted as saying: "I am not in favour of an independent Palestinian state. I think this issue has to be settled within the framework of a negotiated solution with Jordan."

The Prime Minister's Office here immediately issued a statement saying that Chirac had not granted an interview to *Yedioth Aharonot*. However, the statement did not deny Chirac's declaration to the

Israeli journalist, Yeschayahu Ben-Porat.

The initial reports of Chirac's comments led to an immediate uproar in pro-PLO circles in Paris.

On his way to a conference of the non-aligned countries in Zimbabwe, the PLO political head, Farouk Kaddoumi, stopped in Paris yesterday and was received by Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond. Coming out of the meeting, Kaddoumi refused to comment on the prime minister's declaration. He added in Arabic: "You cannot rely on the enemy to put things straight" (a reference to the Israeli paper having published the statement).

Asked about the French position, Kaddoumi used word for word a formula of the French Foreign Ministry about the rights of the

Palestinians to self-determination, but refraining from mentioning a Palestinian state.

The French press has meanwhile said that the new French stand could endanger the seven French hostages still held by fundamentalists in Lebanon.

Some of Chirac's political friends are saying that the prime minister was carried away by his natural warmth while talking.

The Paris representatives of the Arab League and the PLO met separately last week with Foreign Minister Raimond, who assured them that Paris had not changed its Middle East policy. The PLO representative declared later that "the incident is over."

As far as the Foreign Ministry is concerned, the rumpus is artificial.

A high-ranking official of the Quai d'Orsay said that France had never said that it was in favour of a Palestinian state.

Socialist President François Mitterrand was the first to pronounce the word "state," whereas his predecessor, Conservative Valérie Giscard d'Estaing, had always spoken cautiously of "homeland." In an address to the Knesset in Jerusalem in 1982, Mitterrand spoke about the rights of the Palestinians, and said this could mean a state when the time came.

Circles close to the Foreign Ministry are pointing to declarations about the Middle East and stressing that the words "Palestinian state" are not to be found.

A correspondent of the London *Observer* Service adds:

Did Chirac really mean to make such a public reassessment of the traditionally pro-Arab policy which he has inherited from General De Gaulle?

While not denying that he had been accurately quoted, Chirac insists that he never gave an interview. He had been supplying information for Ben-Porat's book on the French nuclear reactor supplied to Iraq and destroyed by Israeli planes in 1981, and had been unpleasantly surprised to find his ruminations served back at him as front-page news.

To this Ben-Porat, who recorded the session, says that Chirac made it very clear that he was talking on the record by saying occasionally that he was about to interject something that was off the record. These passages were kept out of the article.

Beirut Christian heads join Moslem peace call

BEIRUT (Reuters). — Lebanon's Christian leaders called yesterday for an immediate truce in the decade-old civil war and voiced support for fresh peace efforts by Sunni Moslem Prime Minister Rashid Karamé.

"In the light of positive peace indications we call for an immediate truce in Lebanon," Christian politicians and militia leaders said in a statement broadcast by the Christian Voice of Lebanon Radio station.

It was also learnt that President Amin Gemayel has sent messages to the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Algeria and the Soviet Union on his peace initiative for Lebanon launched in a speech on August 1.

The new Christian peace initiative, the second this year, capped the latest efforts by Karamé, who last week broke a nine-month political stalemate by meeting Christian cabinet ministers.

The ministers agreed to call for "dialogue committee" meetings of Christian and Moslem ministers to try to resolve political differences and end sectarian strife.

Jemayel's message to the Soviet

Union was his first to the Kremlin on the situation in Lebanon. Official sources said Jemayel asked for Soviet support in ending the crisis.

The sources said the Soviet Union had recently displayed special interest in Lebanon.

This was reflected in two Soviet votes for renewing Unifil's peacekeeping mandate in South Lebanon. In the past, the Soviet Union had abstained whenever the vote came up at the security council.

The Beirut conservative newspaper *Al-Anwar* said yesterday that Jemayel would make a private visit to France to meet an important "non-French personality" during the next 48 hours. There was no official confirmation of the report.

French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, meanwhile, threatened to withdraw French forces from Unifil if the UN fails to define anew the duties of the South Lebanon peacekeeping force, Radio Monte Carlo reported yesterday.

"All Unifil units, whatever their nationalities, will be the hostage of the volatile situation in South Lebanon, unless the United Nations defines their duties," said Chirac.

China reported main arms supplier to Iran

WASHINGTON (AP). — China has become Iran's largest arms supplier in the last six months, replacing North Korea, the *Washington Post* reported yesterday, quoting unidentified officials in the administration.

It said China has sent more than \$300 million worth of surface-to-air missiles, anti-air missiles and other arms despite U.S. efforts to stop the trade. It cited Defence Department officials as saying that the Chinese are now selling to both Iraq and Iran.

According to the report, Chinese officials told a U.S. official that Iran is using the weapons to aid anti-Soviet guerrillas in Afghanistan. It

added that the U.S. administration did not accept the statement because of the types of weapons shipped.

The *Post* said the greatest U.S. concern has arisen from persistent reports that China has agreed to supply Iran with J6 jet fighters, a Chinese version of the Soviet Mig 21.

If the J6 appears in Iran, it would be the first replacement of its air force has had since the early days of the war with Iraq, the newspaper said.

Heavy tanks and rocket launchers may also be on the way, it said. It quoted some unidentified sources as viewing the shipments by China as a business deal.



A Salvadoran soldier evacuates a guerrilla who has lost his legs during a battle. More than 100 guerrillas have been evacuated in a medical exchange with the Salvadoran army. (AFP telephoto)

French fires controlled, preventive steps planned

NICE (AFP). — Prime Minister Jacques Chirac announced a series of measures yesterday to prevent forest fires of the kind that have claimed four lives and destroyed more than 15,000 hectares of woodland in France's southeastern Alpine region over the past week.

Criticizing what he called a "total deficit" fire-fighting system, Chirac said a Mediterranean forest preservation body would be created in order to help clear land of highly flammable scrub and undergrowth.

Chirac, who earlier in the day toured part of the disaster area over the eastern Maritime Alps by helicopter, also promised better communications and air links for the region, as well as stiffer punishment for arsonists.

Police meanwhile reported that fire continued to rage in a single region, north of Lucerne in the Maritime Alps. Weather forecasts predicted rain — a mixed blessing since officials feared that a heavy downpour could cause avalanches in the mountainous region where the charred vegetation would no longer hold the soil and rocks in place.

Four people have died and nearly 200 more were injured in the fires, which were fanned by high winds and fed by brush and forests made tinder-dry by the region's worst drought in 30 years.

Firemen weary after three days of constant effort said the major outbreaks appeared to be quelled but added a recurrence of high winds could rekindle the flames.

EYES. — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, 42, and his Italian-born wife, 35-year-old Sonia, signed a pledge in New Delhi yesterday to posthumously donate their eyes to the national eye bank, a spokesman said.

Assad pledges support for Libya in attack

DAMASCUS (AP). — Syria yesterday pledged unconditional support for Libya if it is attacked by the U.S. army, according to a joint communiqué issued yesterday after a two-day visit by President Hafez Assad to Tripoli.

"Any aggression on Syria or Libya will be considered as an aggression on both," said the communiqué on the talks between Assad and Libyan leader Col. Muammar Gaddafi.

President Assad declared that Syria stands with all its potential by the side of Libya to counter any aggressive action and to face the threats of America, Zionism and its allies," the communiqué said.

The joint communiqué also denounced last month's visit by Prime Minister Shimon Peres to Morocco

for talks with King Hussein. "This visit is a treacherous deed and a challenge to Arab nationalist feelings," it said.

While Assad and Gaddafi were meeting on Monday night in Benghazi, Libya's second largest city, a senior U.S. official in Washington said that contingency plans for a bombing raid were being made because of indications the Libyans were planning new terrorist strikes, or encouraging them.

The Syrian Arab news agency reported yesterday that Assad and Gaddafi had met with several Palestinian leaders, including Col. Abu Musa, head of the Syrian-backed anti-Arafat faction, and Col. Abu Khaled Al-Amleh, one of his senior officers.

Spanish pledge to 'just Arab cause'

DAMASCUS (AP). — Syrian President Hafez Assad yesterday received letters from Spain's King Juan Carlos and its prime minister calling for the continuation of good relations between Spain and the Arab world. The letters were handed over by Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez at the end of a two-day visit to Syria.

The official Syrian Arab news agency said the king and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez stressed in their letters "Spain's firm position towards the just Arab cause and its eagerness to preserve the traditional relations between Spain and the Arabs."

The agency said Assad had accepted an invitation to visit Spain.

Iraq continues raids on tankers

MANAMA (AP). — Iraq said yesterday that its jet fighters had attacked an unidentified tanker off Iran's coast. The statement came as Gulf-based shipping executives reported that a West German-operated tugboat was sunk in an Iraqi missile attack last week and that four seamen had been killed.

The shipping executives said the

500-ton Adil Abu was attacked on Tuesday of last week about 112 kilometres southeast of Iran's Kharg Island Oil Terminal.

LOTTO. — In yesterday's drawing of the national lottery, the following numbers were picked: 12, 14, 23, 24, 31, 38, and the additional number, 41.

FOREIGN NEWS IN BRIEF

Convicted killer is executed in Texas

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP). — A man convicted of kidnapping a woman and killing her by burying her alive on a beach was executed by injection early yesterday, becoming the third prisoner put to death in Texas in a week.

The U.S. Supreme Court hours earlier had rejected an appeal from Chester Lee Wicker, 38, who was condemned in the 1980 slaying of Suzanne Knuth, 22.

Opposition supporters go on rampage in Pakistan

KARACHI (Reuters). — Rioters set fire to a railway station and a hotel in Pakistan's Sindh province in renewed anti-government violence yesterday following the arrest of scores of opposition leaders two weeks ago.

Two supporters of Benazir Bhutto, the most prominent opposition leader, tried to burn themselves alive in the town of Dadu, also in Sindh. Police prevented them and charged them with attempted suicide.

Soviets moving to reduce UN diplomats

UNITED NATIONS (AP). — The Soviet Union is taking steps to sharply decrease the number of diplomats at its embassy to the United Nations as asked by Washington, regardless of Soviet protests about the U.S. request, U.S. officials said yesterday. The Russians are to be reduced from 275 (the figure last March) to 220 by October 18 and to 108 by April 1, 1988.

The reduction will not affect the 449 Soviet citizens working for the United Nations such as Gennadiy Fedorovich Zakharov, who was arrested on Saturday for spying.

3 dead as Hurricane Charley hits Ireland

DUBLIN (AP). — Three people died and up to 1,000 more were flooded out of their homes on Monday night as the tail-end of Hurricane Charley brought gale-force winds and torrential rain to Ireland and Britain.

Rescue workers recovered the bodies of a woman and a seven-year-old girl from Dublin's River Liffey.

In Northern Ireland, a workman installing sewage pipes was killed at Newry. Police said a trench caved in on top of 40-year-old Dominic Craven during torrential rain.

Half of South Korean cabinet changed

SEOUL (Reuters). — South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan reshuffled his cabinet yesterday following opposition demands that all ministers should resign for what it called misrule and lack of democracy.

Chun retained Prime Minister Lho Shin Yong and deputy premier Kim Mahn Je, the country's chief economic planner, but replaced 10 ministers in the 22-member cabinet.

Mother dies saving two sons in roof collapse

MOSCOW (AP). — A 34-year-old mother was killed saving her two sons when the roof of a rural village cafe collapsed on them during a storm last Thursday, the newspaper *Sovetskaya Rossiya* reported yesterday.

The newspaper said Luba I. Artemova used her body to shield her two school-ages sons, Tolya and Fedor, but was killed herself by falling debris. The two boys escaped without injury.

New museum for French impressionists

PARIS (AFP). — The Jeu de Paume museum, home of French impressionist paintings since 1947, welcomed the last of millions of viewers here yesterday before its masterpieces are moved to the new Musée d'Orsay across the Seine.

Despite an unrivaled setting at the edge of the Tuileries Gardens, where it was built as an orangery (orange greenhouse) in 1862, it had

clearly become too small for its post-World War II purpose.

The Jeu de Paume could only show some 300 paintings.

Their new home will be the upper gallery of a new turn-of-the-century museum inside the shell of the French capital's massive and disguised Gare d'Orsay railway station on the left bank of the Seine to be inaugurated in December.

Chernobyl unit may be entombed by October

VIENNA (Reuters). — The Soviet Union hopes to complete the entombment of the accident-stricken fourth reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant by the beginning of October, a senior Soviet official said yesterday.

Azmen Abagyan, Soviet delegate to the special accident meeting being held at the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), told a news conference.

"In the very near future the protective wall will have been installed and entombment completed. It is assumed it will be completed by the end of September or the beginning of October."

Workers are installing protective walls along the perimeter of the unit and metal and concrete partitions within the crippled reactor.

Senior Soviet delegate Valeri Legasov said it was hoped to reopen the first and second units at Chernobyl by the end of the year.

No timetable has been set for restarting the third reactor, while construction has stopped on the fifth and sixth units which are of the same type as the one involved in the April 26 accident.

The 500 technical experts who began a five-day meeting in Vienna on Monday broke into two working groups to hear the Soviet accounts of the engineering and the health and environmental aspects of the disaster.

"We are turning to the crux of the matter — a whole series of operator errors which had not been sufficiently foreseen by the designers," said Bryan Edmondson of Britain.

"They had not made safety provisions for such a sequence of events," Edmondson, senior nuclear official with the Central Electricity Generating Board, is chairing the group examining the plant's engineering design.

Helmut Rabold, who is vice president of East Germany's National Board for Atomic Safety and Radiation Protection and chairman of the Health and Environment group, said of the Soviet presentation:

"It is a very impressive report and shows a real national effort to cope with the painful situation."

Western experts at the meeting say they have been struck by the Soviet openness and the level of details in the 380-page report.

Rau admits in Nuremberg: 'Long way' from gaining power

NUREMBERG (AP). — Social Democrat Johannes Rau said yesterday he would terminate West Germany's "star wars" agreement with the U.S. and ask Washington to take home its nuclear missiles deployed in West Germany if he is elected chancellor next January.

In a speech to the Social Democratic Party congress in Nuremberg, Rau also conceded that "we are a long way from the goal" of retaking power from Chancellor Helmut Kohl in national elections on January 25.

Rau's speech marked the kick-off of his election campaign. He was later yesterday officially confirmed by the 440 delegates as the Social Democrats' candidate to run for chancellor.

Rau said a Social Democratic-led government would terminate an accord the Kohl coalition signed in March supporting West German participation in the U.S. strategic defence initiative programme, the research programme for a space-based defence against nuclear missiles that has been dubbed "star wars."

"Repairing our world is more important than arming space," said Rau, now the popular governor of North Rhine-Westphalia State.

Pretoria announces halt to border searches

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa said yesterday it was halting border searches of traffic carrying exports from Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Zimbabwe's national news agency Zina reported earlier that South Africa had stepped up the border searches, causing delays of at least 30 hours per truck.

Customs officers began time-consuming inspections of exports from Zambia and Zimbabwe that cross South Africa three weeks ago. Both black-ruled states are at the forefront of a campaign for economic sanctions against Pretoria because of its apartheid policy.

The searches were widely interpreted as part of an economic war of nerves over the sanctions issue, but the South African government said they were imposed to compile a statistical picture of trade with the two countries.

In a terse statement, the Foreign Affairs Department said: "The statis-

tical survey of the export traffic from Zimbabwe and Zambia, via the South African transport network, will be discontinued as of Wednesday August 27, 1986.

The information gathered since August 4 is considered to be sufficient for the present."

Foreign Minister P.W. Botha said in a parliamentary reply yesterday that Pretoria had from time to time held discussions with Zimbabwe on the effect sanctions would have on South Africa's neighbours. But a spokesman said that the decision to stop the searches was not related to any communication between governments.

Zina quoted truck drivers at the South African town of Messina as saying the crackdown was causing delays of at least 30 hours to clear each vehicle. But South African freight agents at Messina said there were no long queues at the inspection point.

The Zina report came as senior officials of the 101-nation non-

aligned movement met in Zimbabwe's capital Harare to prepare for the organization's eighth summit next week.

In Cape Town, the father of South Africa's first test-tube quadruplets was slain at his luxury house, and police yesterday arrested four men and two women at a squatter camp in connection with the killing.

The mother of the quadruplets, 33-year-old Renate Hinrichson, was stabbed several times by the attackers but was reported in good condition at a hospital. One of the four quadruplets born in May had died recently but the other three were not hurt and were being looked after by friends, police said.

The father, 52-year-old Stan Hinrichson, was shot in the face and stabbed in the back by masked intruders who entered the house in Constantia, a posh suburb of Cape Town, about 8 p.m. on Monday.

Police said nothing appeared to

have been stolen from the house. But they recovered Hinrichson's car when the six suspects were arrested early yesterday at the Crossroads squatter camp east of Cape Town. One of the arrested women had worked as a servant for the Hinrichsons, police said.

In Johannesburg, the authorities said yesterday a black man had been found burned to death, bringing to at least 252 the death toll in political violence since the government declared emergency rule on June 12.

The Bureau for Information, which controls reports of unrest under emergency media censorship, said the body was found at Zwide, an Eastern Cape black township rocked by violence during mass anti-apartheid riots last year.

A black man was killed and eight other people were injured on Monday when police fired shotguns and tear gas in Soweto, the township near Johannesburg.

(AP, Reuters)



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Evening
Festive Dinner — Opening Ceremony
Guests: The Ambassador of the United States of America to Israel
Keynote Address: Prime Minister of the State of Israel

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1986
Morning Session:
Greetings: President of the Israel-America Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Ariel Malkiel
Opening Remarks: Minister of Finance, Mr. Moshe Nissim
First Anniversary of the Free Trade Area Agreement (FTA): Prospects for the Future
American Viewpoint:
United States Trade Representative
The Honorable Clayton Yauter
Israeli Viewpoint: Minister of Industry and Trade, Mr. Ariel Sharon
FTA — American and Israeli Experience —
One Year After
U.S. Businessmen
Israeli Businessmen
Lunch
Minister of Economy and Planning, Mr. Gad Ya'acobi
Afternoon Session:
Israel as a Bridge to the European Economic Community —
Research Project headed and presented by Prof. Segev Hirsch, Tel Aviv University
Workshops:
Tourism — Minister of Tourism and Justice, Mr. Avraham Shari
Consumer Goods — Textiles: Food and Agriculture
Industrial Goods — Machinery and Agricultural Equipment; Electronics; Chemicals, Plastics and Pharmaceuticals
Services — Banking, Investments and other Services
Evening
Reception:
The Ambassador of the United States of America to Israel

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1986
Morning Session:
Defence Markets and the Memorandum of Agreement
Minister of Defence, Mr. Yitzhak Rabin
Technological Developments and R & D in Israeli Industry
Minister of Science and Development, Mr. Gideon Peit
Joint Ventures: Formation and Past Experience
Panel Discussion:
Chairman — Mr. Eli Huvitz, Israeli Chairman of Operation Independence
Moderator — James Dobkin, Esq., Arnold and Porter, Washington, D.C.
Lunch
Opening Remarks: Mr. Yitzhak Moda'i, M.K. and

former President of Israel-America Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Address: Deputy Secretary of Commerce, The Honorable Clarence J. Brown
Afternoon Workshops:
The Memorandum of Agreement, Industrial Cooperation and Government Procurement
How to Tap Money in the U.S. Market for Investment in Israel
Panel Discussion: Aspects of Business Transactions in the U.S. and Israel (financial and legal)
Dinner
Minister of Foreign Affairs

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Tottering along towards chaos

By ASHER WALLFISH
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The most damning *exposé* of the country's religious court system was compiled by its former head of administration, Rabbi Simcha Meron, three years ago. Meron was forced out much later by his superior, Religious Affairs Minister Yosef Burg, and by the man who commissioned the report, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira. The dismissal followed continued clashes between Meron on one hand, and Burg and Shapira on the other on many issues apart from that of the inefficiency of the religious courts. Meron has since become legal adviser to the Shas Party, which is locked in a battle with Burg and Shapira over control of patronage and budgets in the religious world.

After obtaining a copy of the Meron report, which was issued in restricted circulation, *The Jerusalem Post* asked Meron if anything had changed since he scored the shortcomings of *beit din* (religious court) after *beit din* and of *dayanim* (judges) after *dayan*, in 11 towns.

Meron said: "The scenario is the same, although some of the actors have changed. Disorder in the religious courts has become worse, if anything. The chief rabbis care less and less about supervision. They concentrate on getting their men in."

He added: "I was locked in an argument with Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Shapira and the Sephardi Rishon Lezion Mordechai Eliahu over the fundamental approach. I said that the religious courts should be oriented towards the needs and mentality of Israel's population today. They should be subject to state supervision and adhere to the principles of sound civil-service administration while at the same time continuing to apply *halacha* and the *din* (religious code and judgments) unchanged. But the chief rabbis, following the mood of the majority of *dayanim*, said there was no reason to alter the old-style procedures, and saw no good in modernization."

"I found that most *dayanim* did not know what it means to serve the public and that many of them could

not be relied upon to conduct themselves as befitting salaried officials. With all due respect to their learning and stature, I felt there was no choice but to maintain supervision over the *dayanim* to make sure they did their jobs. That was my struggle. But I did not succeed."

Meron recalled that he had found cases of *dayanim* regularly turning up hours late for sessions in most of the country's religious courts, or absenting themselves without good cause for periods ranging from days to months. He had found inexcusable delays - sometimes of months - in the handling of cases. It was common practice for *dayanim* to send litigants for no good reason to courts in other towns. Eventually the cases would be sent back.

"I urged the introduction of proper records. I demanded the purchase of at least one computer to enable a follow-up on the handling of every case in every religious court, nationwide. Files were getting lost and computerization was the only way to prevent that. But the *dayanim* refused. The Religious Affairs Ministry preferred to spend more money on yeshivas."

Meron said the religious courts system to this day is plagued by *dayanim* living in one city and judging in another. "Faced with the bother of travelling from Jerusalem to Tiberias by public transport, or from Bnei Brak to Safad, the *dayanim* continually invent excuses for staying home. That problem has become worse, not better. Prior to appointment, *dayanim* have been told over the past couple of years that they must sign a commitment to live in the town where they serve. Those with integrity said they could not commit themselves, and declined the posts. Many who signed the commitment never intended to keep it, and in fact do not keep it. So they stay away from court if it's inconvenient. That can mean a court of three *dayanim* is unable to sit as it is incomplete, according to *halacha*, and thus more anguish for the litigants."

Meron said that the *dayanim* had resisted all his demands to keep

monthly attendance records, even though he argued this was essential for working out salaries, leave and pensions. They countered with the claim that no such records were kept for judges in the civil court system.

"The result is growing anarchy, which undermines the system, and saps the public's faith in the religious courts. The worst is that Chief Rabbi Shapira and Eliahu oppose all suggestions for enforcing minimal discipline."

When I pointed to the last recommendation in his report, which urges the establishment of a disciplinary court to act against *dayanim* who refuse to move their residence in violation of their signed commitment, or who are consistently late or absent from the courtroom, Meron said: "*Dayanim* don't want to sit on a bench to try their colleagues. They say that *halacha* makes it impossible for them to criticize a colleague unless he has infringed *halacha*. They say there is no legal basis for sanctions against a *dayan* who violates discipline or flouts sound administration practice or breaks a commitment of a secular nature."

Another unresolved problem among *dayanim* is moonlighting, said Meron. Apart from violating the civil-service regulations, this leads to increased absenteeism, especially when *dayanim* adjudicate in one town and moonlight in another.

Meron said that the two fastest roads to appointment as a *dayan* were through kinship and ideological affinity. But no matter whether a *dayan* owed his appointment to a relative or to an ideological sponsor, he could always rely on his sponsor to render him immune from sanctions for misconduct or poor performance.

"The two chief rabbis can dictate not only appointments of *dayanim*, but also of officials throughout the Religious Affairs Ministry, and can dictate policy in that ministry, because the National Religious Party, which holds the Religious Affairs portfolio, depends utterly on the Chief Rabbinate."

"Minister Burg, who got Shapira

and Eliahu in as chief rabbis, gives them an absolutely free hand in everything relating to religious courts. Burg's indifference has meant anarchy in the courts."

Meron claims that cases often occur of *dayanim* not telling the truth to the appointments committee. Former attorney-general Yitzhak Zamir once intervened to force a re-vote in the appointments committee because a candidate concealed the fact that he was closely related to one of the chief rabbis. The re-vote was duly held. The man was re-appointed because of his kinsman's steamroller majority, Meron said.

The kinship principle sometimes sees *dayanim* progressing in rank, as pieces move forward on a draughts board. When Avraham Shapira became chief rabbi, his former post was taken by a relative, Eliezer Shapira, whose place in turn was taken by Avraham's brother, Shmuel Shapira, Meron recalled.

He said that the failings hampering the work of rabbinical courts at the time of his report are still plaguing the system, though not necessarily in the same towns.

The *Post* asked a former member of the *dayanim* appointments committee how Chief Rabbi Shapira could have ignored Meron's recommendations after having ordered him to prepare his report in the first place. This man explained: "The two chief rabbis suspected Meron of being an agent of one of their predecessors, former Sephardi Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef. So they deliberately took no notice of any of the reforms he proposed, assuming Meron was tendentious. As for Burg, he ignored everything Meron recommended on principle because of Meron's former support for Burg's challenger in the National Religious Party, Zevulun Hammer."

This source summed up: "With relationships like that affecting the religious courts system, it's a wonder the system manages to totter along as it does."

This is the final article in a series. (The three previous parts appeared on August 20, 21 and 24.)



This new diesel-electric engine arrived at Haifa port this week. Manufactured by General Motors in the U.S., the 2200 horsepower engine can pull 2600 tons, the equivalent of 66 semi-trailers. Israel Railways purchased two and will be able to increase by 800,000 tons the amount of freight hauled from the South. The engine is airconditioned and can go 2,000 kilometres without refuelling.

Hotel, rabbinate clash over Shabbat

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. - The local rabbinate and the management of the Dan Carmel Hotel are to meet tomorrow to explore ways to reach a "mutual accommodation" on the hotel's *kashrut* certification.

The rabbinate suspended the hotel's certificate after a public event was held in the hotel dining room last Friday night.

However, Chief Rabbi She'ar-Yashuv Cohen told *The Jerusalem Post*: "We have only suspended the certificate; the *kashrut* supervisors are continuing their work in the Dan."

He said that the rabbinate had in effect gone "more than half way" to accommodate the Dan Carmel in the past in view of its status as Haifa's only five-star hotel. The hotel had even been allowed to keep open its swimming pool and buffet on the Sabbath "as a separate unit."

But by holding the interview pro-

gramme and fashion-show evening on Friday night "they clearly violated the *kashrut* contract," and "abused our goodwill," the Haifa chief rabbi said.

He added that the Haifa rabbinate had informed the management in advance that it would not countenance the event. "We aren't compelling them to have our *kashrut* certificate, but what they did was simply not fair, especially as all the other hotels object to the way we have agreed to allow the Dan to observe the Sabbath," said the chief rabbi. At the management's suggestion, "our Sabbath conditions are identical to those in the Dan chain's flagship, the King David in Jerusalem, and public events for which tickets are sold, are not allowed to be held there on Friday nights."

Dan manager Raffy Weiner told *The Post*: "In our opinion *kashrut* concerns the food and our food is kosher and will continue to be so, under supervision." But now that

most guests are Israelis, who do demand entertainment, "we did what all hotels do."

Nevertheless, he said they had been careful not to sell tickets after the start of the Sabbath and to install the amplification equipment in advance.

He considered it unfair to hold them to the "Jerusalem *kashrut* conditions" which were particularly strict, but was quite willing to match those for the Sheraton and Plaza in Tel Aviv.

Itim reports from Ashkelon that MK Shulamit Aloni (Citizens Rights Movement) this week urged the heads of the Hoteliers' Association to apply to the High Court of Justice for a injunction against rabbinical abuses of the power to issue *kashrut* certificates. She said, during a tour of Ashkelon, that the demands of the rabbinate as a condition for issuing *kashrut* certificates had no connection with the actual *kashrut* of the food in hotel kitchens.

Moshav opens purrfect hotel

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Moshav Gan Haim has opened what it hopes will be the top in feline accommodations - an overnight "hotel" for cats.

For the introductory price of NIS 7.50, a cat "guest" gets a night away from home, plus a scratching tree, a

lookout post, air-conditioning, a sleeping box and a sand box in his individual "suite."

The cat is fed his regular diet - and there's a veterinarian to prevent catastrophe.

For an additional charge, the cat can be transported to and from the hotel, near Kfar Sava.

Custody for accused vandals

Two cousins charged with vandalizing a Jerusalem synagogue earlier this month are to remain in custody until the end of their trial, the Supreme Court ruled yesterday.

Jihad and Rasmi Shawamra were charged in Jerusalem District Court on Sunday with breaking into the Habad Synagogue in Givat Shani on

the night of August 6. The two 19-year-olds from the village of Dura near Hebron allegedly stole various objects, destroyed a Tora scroll, threw prayerbooks on the floor, and did other damage.

District Court Judge Vardim Zoller had ordered the two released on NIS 25,000 bail.

Haifa is a lively town - just ask Gurel

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. - "We are changing the leisure attitude of the residents," Mayor Arye Gurel insists. "Haifa is no longer a place with nothing to do."

He noted that all the places of entertainment opened here recently by City Hall or with its encouragement were crowded until the early hours these days. This in a city known for going to bed early, "with the only noise late at night that of the shutters being lowered."

He predicted a big increase in tourism.

Among "significant changes" had been the recent opening of two shopping centres in the Hadar and Central Carmel neighbourhoods, with a third going up in the Ahuva neigh-

bourhood. "Haifa women need no longer go to Tel Aviv for their shopping."

The sports centre at the southern approaches to the city - with 20 tennis courts and another six planned, as well as squash and lawn-bowling facilities - is drawing crowds, he added.

The Bat Galim seashore promenade is also a big attraction, and the cableway has queues almost all day during the holiday season. Cafes and discotheques are doing good business.

The mayor expressed regret that the businessmen who had bought the cableway from the city were not operating it on the Sabbath, following an agreement with religious groups who had undertaken to compensate them for any losses.

The mayor conceded that Bat Galim residents are complaining about the noise from the promenade and the absence of a public toilet there. He promised that a toilet would be built.

The forthcoming opening of Rehov Nordan pedestrian mall would be another boost for Haifa, "and now we have to see about getting more hotels built for the tourists we'll attract," he said.

Gurel expressed regret that the government had not given the city "promised" aid for development. The city had intended to use this money for housing, tourism and industrial expansion which would have provided 5.5 million workdays and "solved our unemployment problems for the next five years."

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TORAH AND FLORA

IN BRIEF

Do westerners prefer the areas?

The Absorption Ministry yesterday rejected claims that most western immigrants prefer to settle in the territories, and said that reports to that effect were politically motivated.

In an apparent response to Jewish Agency settlement chief Haim Aharon's claim last week that 60 per cent of western immigrants prefer to settle in the territories, the absorption ministry released its figures showing that only 1.2 per cent of those immigrants chose to live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip between 1976 and 1986.

Aharon, a Herut activist, made the claim in response to last week's call by Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsuri (Labour) to freeze settlement in the West Bank.

Man charged with murder of wife

TEL AVIV (Itim). - David Dok, 51, was charged yesterday in the district court here with the murder of his wife. Dok allegedly shot Gracia, 35, in the head and chest on August 10. Dok had begun working that day at a private investigation agency and allegedly killed his wife with the pistol he was issued that day.

Forest area burned

HAZORE'A. - Twelve dunams of a 35-year-old forest next to this Jezreel Valley kibbutz were destroyed by fire yesterday. The cause of the blaze is not known.

Threatening letters

TEL AVIV (Itim). - A former police officer accused of sending threatening letters to the superior responsible for his dismissal, was released yesterday by the magistrates' court on NIS 700 bail.

CORRECTION

In a story on kidney transplants at Tel Hashomer's Sheba Hospital in August 22's *Jerusalem Post*, there was an error. Prof. Erwin Ya'acov, head of the hospital's surgery department, was not reprimanded by a Health Ministry commission.

Bill would protect rape suspect's privacy

By BARBARA AMOUYAL
For The Jerusalem Post

Rape suspects will be protected from publicity if a ministerial committee on Legislation proposal is passed by the Knesset.

The draft, approved on Monday by the nine-member ministerial committee, calls for a publication ban of names and "identifying features" of rape suspects. The committee believes that "premature" publication can cause "untoward damage" to a rape suspect's reputation or family standing.

The draft law was proposed by Justice Minister Avraham Shari, the committee's chairman, in light of what he said was a rash of rapes and sexual-abuse cases in the past several months. Police statistics show 103 rapes and 188 cases of indecent acts committed in the first half of 1986, compared to 128 rapes and 182 indecent acts for the same period in 1985.

The four-point draft amends the existing definition of rape. The penal code now defines rape as a "criminal act involving physical penetration." The committee has voted to broaden this definition to include physical penetration by means of foreign objects.

The ministerial committee also called for an increase in the maximum sentence for rapists. According to Haim Klugman, the senior Justice Ministry legislation officer who aided Shari in his draft proposal, maximum sentences are to be increased by two years.

Rape and sodomy presently carry maximum prison terms of 14 years, although gang rape or rape at knife- or gun-point calls for a maximum of 20 years.

Further, the draft forbids "forced intercourse" between married couples, defined by the committee as rape.

Other points in the draft include a publication ban of victims' names as well as an order forbidding investigators from investigating a victim's sexual past. According to Klugman, a police investigation into a victim's sexual past is irrelevant and has been a successful ploy by defence attorneys in the acquittal of rape offenders.

Legal sources yesterday were shocked and angered over the attempt to ban publication before conviction. "The public has the right to know about an alleged rape suspect. The time between charging a suspect and convicting him in court is too long for the public not to know of alleged offences," said one Hebrew University law professor.

Klugman admits that banning publication of suspects' names until after conviction is "extreme" and "precedent-setting." However, he cited British law, which forbids publication of rape suspects before conviction.

Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev, who voted for the draft, said he doesn't foresee difficulties for the bill's passage into law.

Miriam Tass-Glazer (Likud), however, said she would not follow coalition lines when the draft is brought up for Knesset vote. "I fully support the points outlined in the draft except for the publication ban until conviction," she said. "I have always supported protecting the good name of any citizen, but to wait until a suspect is convicted is far too long. Once a suspect is charged, the public has the right to know."

IDF to be sued for damage to nature reserves

By MENAHEM HOROWITZ
Jerusalem Post Reporter

KIRYAT SHMONA. - The Nature Reserves Authority is planning to sue the Israel Defence Forces for damage done by soldiers to nature reserves during the past two weeks.

Spokesmen for the Authority say that two weeks ago, and again Monday, extensive areas of the Hermon reserve were destroyed by soldiers training there. Fire also destroyed parts of the reserve near Kibbutz Maoz Haim in the Beit Shean Valley after the officer in charge of a unit had ordered it to set up fortifications there.

Fires were also caused in the Beit Fasha reserve at the north of the Dead Sea when an IDF officer decided to hold exercises in the area.

As a result of these fires the nature reserves have been closed.

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Funds squeeze forces PLO to trim operations

Colin Legum
London

ALTHOUGH the PLO is not yet short of the odd \$100 million or so, there has been a worrying drop in the annual grants which in the past have enabled Yasser Arafat to maintain an international network of offices and agents as well as to acquire arms and pay his substantial army of terrorists.

Reduced financial support and, in some cases, an entire cut-off in aid for the PLO is attributable to three main reasons.

First, it reflects a loss of confidence on the part of a number of Arab governments in Arafat's leadership and a wish to distance themselves from the internecine struggles within the PLO.

Second, the considerable loss of oil revenues has made it more difficult for the principal financial supporters of the PLO - Saudi Arabia and the other Arab Gulf states - to continue to maintain the substantial contributions on the scale made in the past.

Third, the quarrel between Arafat and King Hussein has meant the loss of funds previously received from Jordan.

Two pieces of hard evidence indicate the pressures on Arafat to husband the substantial reserves he has skillfully accumulated for the PLO over the past decades. The first is the slimming down of the staff in a number of PLO foreign missions, and the closing down of some offices - a decision that has inevitably produced dissatisfaction among those affected by these cuts.

The second bit of evidence is the fact that Arafat now expects payment for PLO cadres supplied to African military forces and liberation movements. In the past, Arafat did not demand payment for those cadres; their services were offered in the spirit of political solidarity. But while the political gains from such acts of solidarity remain important, the need for replenishing the PLO's coffers is a new constraint in responding to requests for the services of cadres skilled in guerrilla methods and techniques associated with terrorist attacks.

An unconfirmed report coming from a normally well-informed source suggests that during Arafat's recent visit to Luanda, where he was asked to supply PLO cadres to provide special training for Swapo guerrillas at their training camps in Angola, he asked for \$5 million a year in order to maintain a training team.

ONLY ARAFAT knows the true state of the PLO's finances. He has strenuously refused in the past to accede to repeated attempts to get him to share his financial stewardship with other leaders in the PLO. One obvious reason for his secrecy is that the PLO is made up of a number of factions, most of them hostile to his own Fatah group, and he would therefore not wish to allow his opponents to know the size of the organization's funds or to discover how they are spent. Arafat's opponents suggest that the PLO treasury holds \$1 billion, but only Arafat is in a position to know the true size of PLO reserves.

Apart from deposits in Swiss and other banks, the PLO engages in many enterprises - ranging from deals with the Mafia to ownership of several small airlines. Arafat maintains his own executive jet to travel around the world.

He is proving himself to be a tough survivor despite the heavy setbacks he has suffered in recent years. These include the expulsion of Fatah forces from Lebanon after the Israeli invasion of the country; the subsequent ruthless persecution of Fatah supporters in Lebanon by the Syrians and the PLO faction supported by Damascus; the intense hostility shown by the Lebanese Shi'ites; the relentless hostility of the Libyan leader, Col. Gaddafi; and the recent serious conflict with King Hussein resulting in the expulsion of Fatah forces from Jordan and a further split in Arafat's ranks.

Although Arafat has lost thousands of cadres as a result of these setbacks, there is strong evidence to suggest that he remains the single most influential PLO leader, especially in the Palestinian refugee camps and on the West Bank.

The intricacies of Arafat's struggle for survival and the keen hostility of his opponents is well illustrated by a recent episode involving Arafat's attempt to re-infiltrate a substantial number of Fatah forces back into Lebanon.

As a result of a private deal between Arafat and Lebanese President Amin Jemayel, the Fatah were given 400 blank Lebanese passports. However, a Syrian agent in the Lebanese security obtained the numbers of the blank passports and as a result, every Fatah supporter in possession of one of these passports has been detained and promptly deported by Syrian security agents on arrival in Beirut.

Nevertheless, it is believed that Arafat has succeeded in establishing a force estimated at 1,500 Fatah supporters in Lebanon, mainly concentrated in the Christian sector of Beirut and in Sidon.

(Third World Reports)

Mubarak: balancing on a tightrope

Moslem militants, economic woes shake regime

John Rogers / Cairo

EGYPT'S economic and political strains are intensifying, posing serious problems for President Hosni Mubarak as he approaches five years in office.

Diplomats say the most populous Arab country, a leading U.S. ally, could face unrest and instability unless its growing economic crisis is skillfully defused.

Egypt's strategic location controlling the Suez Canal at the junction of Europe, Asia and Africa and its sensitive role as the only Arab country to have formal ties with Israel make it a special case for the West. So do its economic woes.

It is burdened by rising repayments on a foreign debt of \$36 billion, a growing budget deficit, falling earnings from oil, tourism and dwindling currency transfers from Egyptians working abroad.

Long-term problems include a high birthrate, which swells the population - currently 50 million - by one million every eight months.

Mubarak, who reaches five years in office in October, denies the economy is "in the intensive care unit." But his government wants to reschedule some of its debt repayments obligations, estimated at \$3.7 billion this fiscal year by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Mubarak has won pledges of political support from the U.S. and key Western European governments when Egypt seeks financial help from the IMF.

They are expected to argue that Cairo, in return for IMF support, should not be saddled with stiff au-

sterity curbs which the government could not meet without risking unrest.

IN THE past 18 months, the Egyptian government has gradually raised the price of bread, flour, petrol, electricity and other basics, while vowing to shield the poorest.

But prices, protected by the state subsidies which drain the Treasury, are still low. The cost of a flat, round loaf of bread has doubled but is still no more than two U.S. cents.

Dismantling subsidies, which date back 30 years to the socialist rule of the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser, is likely to be a key IMF demand, along with rationalizing the multi-tier exchange rate system.

Egypt's Western backers will underline the difficulties Mubarak faces - recalling, for instance, riots that flared in 1977 when the government lifted subsidies on bread.

Five months ago, social tensions spilled over into the worst internal security crisis of Mubarak's presidency when thousands of low-paid police conscripts ran riot for two days, furious over rumours of an extra year's call-up.

More than 100 people were killed in the rioting and army operations to crush the revolt, in which several

luxury hotels and nightclubs near the Giza Pyramids were gutted.

The full story behind the riots may emerge during the trials of more than 1,200 men, which started last month, but the backdrop was a wide gap in living standards and expectations between the poor masses, from which the conscripts came, and the rich.

Because Egypt is a volatile country, its leaders must tread warily, Western officials say.

"Progress is being made but they have to go very slowly," European Community Commissioner Claude Cheysson said recently.

An accord with the IMF should be Egypt's top priority, he said "it being agreed that the IMF will not impose conditions that would be politically explosive."

DIPLOMATS say the government is likely to favour the innovative style of accord just reached between the IMF and Mexico - a country with a mix of debt and oil-dependence they see as comparable to Egypt's.

The Mexico deal links loans to fluctuations in world oil prices, unlocking more cash if crude falls below \$9 a barrel and cutting credits if it tops \$14.

"This has obvious appeal for the Egyptians," one diplomat said, not-



Hosni Mubarak

(Carmen Frick)

ing that prices of Egypt's top-grade crudes were fixed for July at less than \$8 a barrel.

Exports, at below 100,000 barrels a day, are running at a third or less of last year's average. Mubarak says Egypt will lose \$1.2 billion this year in oil earnings.

On top of this, transfers by expatriate workers in other oil states,

the main source of hard currency, will be down by an estimated \$2 billion.

IN TACKLING such problems, Mubarak has one eye on the opposition - not so much the established parties functioning in the parliamentary system but rather a small and sometimes active Islamic fundamentalist movement.

It was fundamentalist action that brought Mubarak to power in October 1981. He was vice president when zealous, angry at President Anwar Sadat's rule and his peace treaty with Israel, gunned Sadat down.

The militants' main demand is Islamic government for this nation with its Moslem majority and large Christian minority.

Diplomats believe militants would probably fan any adverse reaction to tough austerity measures for their own ends.

"They could not foment a coup but they are capable of widespread disturbances," one says.

Maintaining relations with Israel adds to the government's security headaches. Two Israeli embassy officials have been shot dead in Cairo streets in the past year.

After October, Mubarak, 58, has one more year of his six-year term to go. He has not yet indicated whether he plans to stay on for another term.

He is generally liked, though many Egyptians see him as dull and lacking in charisma by comparison with Nasser and the flamboyant Sadat.

"We like a pharaoh to lead us, and he's no pharaoh," commented one, referring to Egypt's ancient rulers.

Mubarak has no vice president and his only obvious potential successor is Defence Field Marshal Abdel-Halim Abu Ghazala.

He is credited by diplomats with more evident popular appeal than Mubarak but has made no bid for the presidency.

(Reuters)

Syria's tourist treasure - Palmyra

William Maclean
Damascus

PALMYRA, the oasis city that once ruled half the Middle East, slumbers like an undisturbed giant in the shimmering haze of the Syrian steppe.

Camels lumber among towering columns, bearing a 20th century burden of camera-clicking Arabs and Europeans through honey-coloured ruins of the second century CE caravan city.

One of the world's largest ancient sites, Palmyra, known to Arabs as Tadmör, is a key attraction in a plan by Damascus to encourage foreigners to visit Syria's rich heritage.

But the project has wisely spared Palmyra the razzmatazz of modern Mediterranean tourism.

Even in the spring and autumn high season, the ruins of Tadmör's Aramaic-speaking civilization cast a tranquil spell.

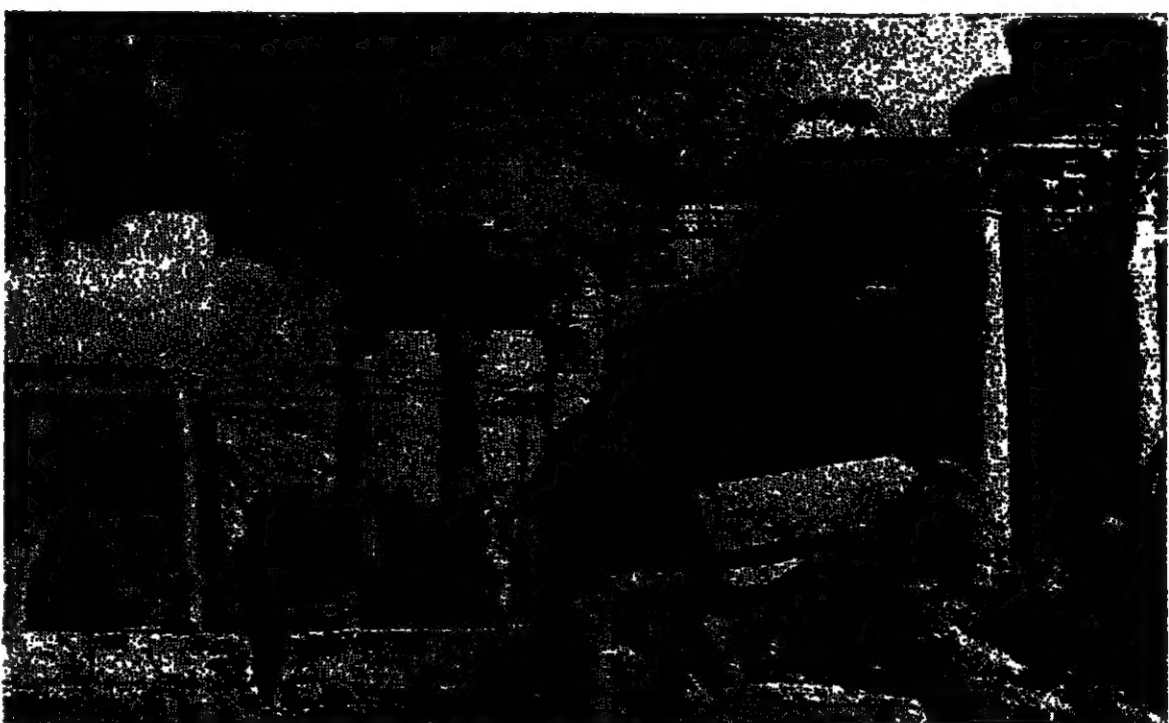
"It's so beautiful, there are so many things to visit, yet we have seen hardly anyone here," shrugged Isabelle Akoupi, leader of a visiting French youth hostel group.

Using an umbrella as a sunshade, a teenager riding a camel swayed along through a long avenue of columns, a guide waved his switch, to quicken the beast's laboured tread, drawing giggles from a group of chador-clad spectators.

Beduin grazing goats near the Greco-Roman agora (parliament) slid out of sight as sightseers approached.

Nearby, a handful of Syrian troops lounged in the shade of a 16-metre column to escape the sun's furnace-like heat.

To stave off hard-sell tourism, Palmyra can rely on sheer size and the remote location that once gave it prosperity, as a halfway staging post



(Bar David)

Palmyra's remote location has spared it from the ravages of heavy tourism.

on trade caravans moving between the Syrian coast and the Euphrates.

The site, named the "bride of the desert" by scholars, is bounded by scrub to the west and mountains to the north. To the south-east stretches the quivering desert.

With columns, temples and burial grounds spread 10 square km. around a breathtaking oasis, the site easily swallows up visitors who make the 250km. trip from Damascus.

IN SPITE of a modern hotel and a museum, Palmyra has not greatly changed from the ruin discovered in 1751 by English travellers Robert Wood and James Dawkins.

"So great a number of Corinthian pillars, mixed with so little wall or solid building, afforded a most

romantic variety of prospect" they reported in *The Ruins of Palmyra*.

The book's publication in English and French in 1753 created a stir among the gentleman adventurers of Europe and led to a systematic exploration which is still going on today.

Khaled Mohammed, a guide who boasts he has never left his native Syria, says in crisp cultured English that only 40 per cent of the ruins have been uncovered.

A favourite stop on his tour is a 2,000-seat theatre built by Queen Zenobia, a Palmyrene ruler who shook the Roman Empire by conquering Egypt and Syria in 269 CE before Aurelian defeated her and restored Palmyra to Rome three years later.

"Hungry lions ate political criminals in this theatre, the queen and her court watched with approval," beamed Mohammed, adding the practice was "not Arab, but was borrowed from the Romans."

Mohammed tells his stories to a few thousand mainly West German and French tourists every year and says there has been no drop in their numbers since the recent spate of hijackings and guerrilla shootings in the Mediterranean.

Said Akoupi: "When we said (in France) we were going to Syria and Jordan, people told us: 'You must be mad.'"

"But we had no qualms and every one here has been very warm and welcoming...the reality of the Middle East is very different from what you hear." (Reuters)

Tunisia takes steps to stay afloat

Paul Legg / Tunis

AS TUNISIANS remain entraptured by the intrigue and innuendo at President Bourguiba's palace, the new prime minister, Rashid Sfar, is moving quickly to repair a creaking economy which, in large part, brought down his long-serving predecessor, Mohammed Mzali, last month.

Sfar, a grey and uninspiring 52-year-old former economy minister, was given the hot seat to halt the country's disastrous economic downturn, attributed to a combination of falling revenues from oil, decreased tourism after the U.S. raid on Libya and a poor cereal harvest.

But, judging from his report to a specially convened session of parliament, the prime minister thinks the problem is more long-term and structural. As one diplomat put it: "Tunisia is ripe for a Thatcherite revolution."

The state employs more than 60 per cent of Tunisians and runs hotels and building sites as well as the "commanding heights of the economy." But, according to Finance Minister Ismail Khelil, Tunisia is producing at only 60 per cent of industrial capacity.

In a package of measures designed to avert a crash, the prime minister announced a 10 per cent devaluation of the dinar and a \$140 million cut in the public spending budget. More importantly, Sfar gave notice that indefinite support for ailing industries would not continue and costly subsidies on basic foodstuffs, such as milk, sugar, cooking oil and bread, would be reviewed.

It is certain, however, that the government will move gradually to reduce the bread subsidy. When it was abolished once, in January 1984,

the move sparked off nationwide rioting, which left 89 dead.

Sfar is obviously set on improving Tunisia's dismal export performance - the devaluation is expected to help - and on reducing the country's dependence on oil exports; at the same time, restrictions on the import of raw materials and parts needed by exporters will be lifted, along with some price controls.

FOR THE moment, long anticipated austerity measures are not demanded. Observers say the prime minister has been given certain leeway by international high finance. Finance Minister Khelil has also confirmed that agreement had been reached with the International Monetary Fund for a stand-by loan of about \$240 million, the bulk of which will be available this year. In addition, talks have been taking place in Washington on a U.S. government bridging loan worth about \$100 million to tide the country over until the IMF money comes on tap. Unusually, Tunisia has gone to the IMF without a parallel commitment to rescheduling its foreign debt, estimated at nearly \$4.5 billion.

Like the deal reached between the IMF and Mexico in July, Tunisia has insisted on a growth-related loan. Khelil wants growth to be around 4 per cent next year compared to the dismal 0.7 per cent now being predicted for 1986.

But observers wonder how Sfar's rescue package will be received at the grassroots. Until Mzali's abrupt departure in July, Tunisians were given little inkling of the extent of the crisis. Unemployment, which stands officially at 13 per cent, is actually much higher and the public spending cuts announced by Sfar, plus reductions in the overmanned state bureaucracy will merely add to the numbers.

Sfar's populist attack on the con-

servation classes for their insensitive over-consumption may strike a favourable note, but the impoverished shum dwellers who live behind conveniently high walls in central Tunis, will want to see the results.

Discontent on the streets is being compounded by reports of heavy-handed police treatment of young people as the security forces zealously implement Bourguiba's crackdown on crime and corruption. Observers say relations between police and youth are as bad today as they were on the eve of the winter riots of 1984, which were characterized by brutality on both sides.

AS THE new government preaches the serious lessons of economic rigour, however, the entertainment value of palace politics has not lessened. Earlier this month, the 83-year-old Bourguiba divorced his wife of 25 years, Wassila. According to a High Court judgment she had "violated the constitution." This rather novel ground for legal separation apparently refers to an interview she gave four years ago when she said she favoured an election on the president's death rather than the automatic succession of his prime minister.

Wassila, who is 71 and now living in exile in the U.S., has watched from afar as her protégés, one by one, have fallen foul of the Tunisian public prosecutor for alleged corruption. The president's niece, Saïda Sassi, a devout party militant, is now ever present at her uncle's side. They bathe together each day near his summer palace at Monastir, and Sassi, who holds the key to the president's medicine chest, is given much of the credit for his return to robust health after years of chronic heart trouble.

Meanwhile, Bourguiba's son from his first marriage, Habib Bourguiba junior, is said to be set to make a

comeback. Out of favour since a family tiff earlier this year, Bourguiba junior, a former foreign minister, could even be made vice president under an amendment to the constitution.

This North African version of the U.S. soap opera *Dynasty* gives an air of unreality to the grim prospects of economic decline. Diplomats believe the problem is no longer who will succeed the man even the constitution calls "supreme," but how long the issue will be allowed to drag on. Despite the appointment last month of a new prime minister and therefore constitutional successor in Rashid Sfar, the confusion has, if anything, deepened.

(London Observer Service)

How the Arabs could transform Japanese society

Ya'acov Lamdan

ONE OF THE least appreciated weapons in the hands of Arab journalists is satire.

Of course there are good reasons for this: generally, authoritarian regimes do not gracefully accept the critical spirit of satirical articles viewing them as insults calling for punishment of the responsible writer or editor.

Likewise, the reading public may have little patience for self-criticism, even if the critique is aimed at the entire nation or Arab world. And for Arab journalists, satirical writing carries less weight than serious works written in more sophisticated language.

But from time to time certain writers attempt something in a satirical vein - particularly in the Arab press published in London and Paris. Two recent articles come to mind: one from the pen of the Lebanese journalist Fouad Hbeika, published in the Paris-based *Al-Watan Al-Arabi* (the Arab Homeland), and the second in the Paris-based *Al-Mustakbal*, by Nabil Khoury.

THE SUBJECT of Hbeika's article was possible Arab exports to Japan. The Japanese Centre for the Development of Leisure Time faces a serious problem, Hbeika notes. It hasn't been able to convince the Japanese to lessen their work hours so they can enjoy themselves. The Japanese, for instance take no more than 13 vacation days a year, even though the law permits them more. Surveys show that 40 per cent of the Japanese between the ages of 30 and 50 believe that work is even more important than family.

"Let's admit the truth," says Hbeika. "Japan awakens the envy of the European world and among us Arabs, a good deal of despair."

"But I'm not one of those who shares this sense of sorrow," he adds. "Today Japan needs us."

For what? First and foremost, for the Arab sense of satisfaction - the famous state of being *ma'sud*.

"We also can export our never-ending songs, worry beads, coffee house tales, nights of pleasure, and stories of our fathers and grandfathers," writes Hbeika.

"We can export our birth and mourning ceremonies that go on for days and our holidays that grow longer every year."

"We can export our palm-reading, and coffee-ground reading..."

"We can export to the Japanese our administrative organization, our production style, our methods of emigration and expulsion..."

"And don't forget to export our hashish, a specialty of several of our countries, along with various other drugs, specialties of still others..."

"After all, most of our regimes specialize in only one thing - the transformation of people, with creative potential into people lacking it..."

NABIL KHOURY'S article provides another example of satire aimed at a particularly Arab phenomenon.

According to Khoury, "There is no place on the face of the earth more fitting for a meeting of Arab foreign ministers or heads of state than New York."

And in New York, there is no more fitting place than the United Nations General Assembly hall.

Everyone knows, of course, that inter-Arab disputes precede any Arab conference being held in any Arab nation, Khoury notes.

"But in New York, there is one place - the UN - where those same ministers and heads of state are transformed into perfectly cultured and civilized people. They speak in polite tones, almost never raising their voices. They try to make their point by force of logic, and almost never speak with their hands. If there's a quarrel nearby, they smile, and if it becomes too loud, they turn away."

Given the positive influence of the UN General Assembly hall on the conduct of Arab officials, Khoury proposes that the Arab League meet there as well.

"And if the rules of the UN don't permit that, perhaps it would be possible to rent the hall for one or two meetings a year," writes Khoury.

"Then, at least, different rules of the game would prevail and quiet discussions among league members would be possible. Afterwards, each delegate could return to his capital in order to continue the tradition of quarrels and inter-Arab disputes."

Translated by Elaine Ruth Fletcher.

The Middle East page is edited by Yehuda Litani.

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Taking a journey into the recent past

Contemporary history comes to life for tourists in a variety of sites around the country. Greer Fay Cashman reports.

EDNA ROSENBLUM, director of the Inland Tourism Division at the Ministry of Tourism has, for the past few months been giving herself a headache. It's not that she's a masochist. It's just that she's looking for something not far removed from a needle in a haystack.

Rosenblum believes that inland tourism should be encouraged all the time and not as a last resort when foreign visitors choose to stay away. Fairly new to her current position, though not to her current industry, she industriously set to work to plan promotion campaigns and package deals. Touring the country to gain first-hand information on where to go and what to see, she has been collecting literature along the way. And that's the source of her headache. The reading hasn't given her any problems. What troubles her is the dearth of material in Hebrew.

Israel has in past years put so much emphasis on courting the foreign tourist that the bulk of tourist publications, whether put out by the ministry, hotels, regional and municipal tourist offices, travel agents or at highlight the finer points of Israel in English, French, German and Spanish—but not in Hebrew.

True, most Israeli adults are sufficiently familiar with at least one of these languages to be able to do quite nicely without a Hebrew ver-

sion. But Rosenblum contends that if you're selling Israel to Israelis, you have to do it in the official language of the country.

She has succeeded in conveying this message to her superiors, but now she herself has to wade through the masses of leaflets, pamphlets, brochures and magazines to make an inventory of what is available and what has to be translated. It's an educational exercise, but it's time consuming and it does make her head ache.

Uzi Michaeli, her immediate superior at the ministry goes along with the idea of promoting Israel to Israelis all year round. Taking Jerusalem as an example, he says that Israelis living outside the capital don't really know Jerusalem. They're aware of the Western Wall, the Dome of the Rock, the Knesset, the Shrine of the Book and the Israel Museum, but not much more.

Usually, they come on a one-day trip and the above is all they see. If they happen to walk through the Jewish Quarter on the way to the Western Wall, they may notice signs of development. Rubble has been cleared away; attractive apartment blocks have been built; window boxes are filled with colorful flowers and shopping areas have expanded.

Until the Jerusalem hotels drastically reduced their bed and breakfast

tariffs, the beauty of the city alone did not hold sufficient incentive to bring large waves of Israelis to stay in the capital. However, once prices became more reasonable, the hotels gradually started to fill up with an average of 75 per cent occupancy rate in recent weeks.

The story is similar all over the country. Although incredibly large numbers of Israelis were willing to pay travel tax and foreign currency levies for the privilege of a vacation abroad, there were even more who preferred to spend their money at home.

Rosenblum wasn't the least bit surprised. Consumers who believe in supporting blue and white, she says, will follow through on tourism. Inland tourism was always the stepchild of the tourist industry, she says. Now, it has become fashionable, and the challenge for everyone working in the tourist industry is to keep it this way.

ONE OF the solutions towards this end is to bring people face to face with a period in history with which they can identify. Excavations from the Hasmonean period, may often seem too abstract. But going back just a century in time and meeting the children and grandchildren of the pioneers of the first Jewish settlements in the Galilee and hearing from them the stories passed down in their families is much easier and excites normal human curiosity.

Contemporary history of course exists not just in the Galilee, but all over the country. In some of the kibbutzim, moshavim and agricultural villages established within the last

50 to 60 years, there are still some of the original settlers who can give first person accounts of how dedicated idealists with no farming experience came to barren rock and swamplands and transformed them to fruitful orchards, fertile fields and verdant plains.

Many of the remarkable achievements of the early settlers would have come to nothing without the patronage of Baron Edmond de Rothschild. At the time of his death in 1934 he had directly or indirectly assisted close to 30 settlements, funded numerous small industries, co-sponsored the Palestine Electric Corporation, contributed to the establishment of the Hebrew University and was instrumental in the founding of Israel's wine industry. His son James followed in his footsteps and continued settlement activity, particularly in Samaria.

It is common knowledge that the Rothschilds have contributed enormously to making Israel what she is today and that the present members of the family continue this involvement, but few people know the full extent of the Rothschild contribution, nor can they picture how different the country would look without its input.

For one thing, we wouldn't have the Knesset, which aside from being the seat of the legislature, is one of the country's most popular tourist attractions. But going further back in time to the establishment of Rosh Pina, Rishon LeZion, Petah Tikva and so on, without the funds and experts despatched by Baron Rothschild, they would have all folded.

Rosh Pina is a case in point. The first of the modern settlements of Israel, resting on the slopes of Mount Canaan south of the Hula Valley, it was founded in 1878 by pious Jews from Safad. They called it Gei Oni. They were not equipped to farm the land, and after two years of hardship conceded failure. Then in 1882, a group of Romanian Jews led by Rabbi David Sholb, came and renewed the settlement.

In the same year, 10 pioneers from Russia founded Rishon LeZion, whose place in history became assured as the location of the world's first Hebrew kindergarten and elementary school, and in 1883, Baron Rothschild began sending funds to these settlements and others which sprang up in their wake.

IN 1900, the Baron became involved in the Jewish Colonial Association, founded some years earlier by another great financier and philanthropist, Baron Maurice de Hirsch. Through the JCA Baron Rothschild initiated land acquisition in Lower Galilee designated for four agricultural settlements: Sejera, Mesha (Kfar Tavor), Menahemiya, and Yavne'el, formerly known as Yama.

For the first 10 years of its existence, the Kfar Tavor farmers milled their wheat in the nearby Circassian village of Kamah. Then in 1911, the farmers decided to purchase their own mill which also served the Arab population. Tensions between Jews and Arabs in 1929 caused the latter to stop using the mill. After a while it was closed down and the farmers of Kfar Tavor took their wheat to the

mills of Afula and Haifa. The museum at Kfar Tavor documents the settlement's history from 1901 to 1948.

Also of great historical interest is the Dubrovin Farm at Yesud Hama'ala. The remains of an ancient synagogue testify that there was a Jewish community in the area 1,600 years ago. In 1884 a group of settlers from Russia and Poland brought new life to Yesud Hama'ala. The most famous residents of the settlement were the Dubrovin family who came from Russia in 1909 and acquired 600 dunams of land with which to build their legendary farm.

They were not deterred by malaria or other diseases, nor by their seemingly unsuitable land. They faced adversity with the optimism of the true idealist and the strength of purpose of the farmer determined to triumph over the elements. Triumph they did. Their farm became the talk of the Galilee.

In 1968 Yitzhak Dubrovin transferred his holdings to the Jewish National Fund. He died some time afterwards and was buried alongside other members of his family in Yesud Hama'ala. At the initiative of the local council, a non-profit organization was formed to reconstruct the farm to its hey-day of around 80 years ago.

Contributing to the coordinated effort were the Jewish Agency, the Jewish National Fund, the Ministries of Construction, Tourism, Interior, Agriculture and Education, the State Custodian, the Nature Protection Authority, private individuals and of course the Rothschild Founda-

tion. The farm was opened to the public earlier this year.

SIMILARLY, in retracing the history of Zionist settlement in the Upper Galilee, one must not ignore Tel Hai, which started out in 1907 as a Jewish agricultural outpost on a desolate hill. The settlement, slightly south of Misgav Am, received its name in 1916 when a group of Hashomer guards came to join the original settlers.

Attacked in 1920 by a large group of Arabs, the settlement became the symbol of Jewish resistance. Among those killed was the great military hero and Zionist leader Joseph Trumpeldor. The museum in the Tel Hai compound recreates the era of early settlement with displays of domestic utensils, agricultural and defence equipment depicted in their original settings. There are also life-size models dressed in the clothes worn by the settlers and enlarged photographs of a harsh, dreamtime period which has evolved into the reality we take for granted.

The Galilee has always been rich in history, but more often than not tour guides tell visitors about people and events of long centuries past. The aspirations of the modern pioneers are all but overlooked except when milestone anniversary celebrations are held.

Rosenblum and others want to change all that—to bring the not-so-distant past closer—to make Israelis more aware of the ongoing miracles which continue to take place in this country every day. A miracle is, after all, a tourist attraction.

Vacation in a family way

The Society for the Protection of Nature has some intriguing suggestions for vacations for the fall, Aviva Bar-Am reports.

JUDGING by the satisfactory accommodations, abundant and frequent meals and landscaped surroundings, we could have been at any rest house in Israel. But rest and a dip in the pool were hardly what our hosts had in mind. We were at the Allon Tavor Field School in Lower Galilee, taking part in a Society for the Protection of Nature's "Family Vacation"—meaning we were up at 5:00 every morning and out in the wilds all day long.

A maxim of the late Yigal Allon, prominently displayed on the dining room wall, could well serve as a motto for Allon Tavor family vacations and those of other Field Schools scattered throughout the country. He said: "A people which doesn't honour its past has an impoverished present and an uncertain future." Our SPNI family vacation combined the scenic and developing Galilean present with the opportunity to relive Israel's rich and exciting history.

A few Thursdays ago, we crawled through some newly discovered underground hideaways at Hirbet Rovma (Beit Rimmon). Candles dimly lit our way as we slithered through narrow passageways on all fours (or on our rears) and we could sense something of what Bar Kochba's followers must have faced as they hid

from the Romans in this cave. A family vacation has three supreme virtues, unavailable in combination in any other kind of family holiday: fantastic trips, incredibly good guides and a positive approach to the younger set.

The trails are always slightly off-the-beaten-track (they were all new to me, and I have travelled extensively over the years). Each trip is challenging and unusual, yet no trek is too difficult for either youngsters or adults.

SPNI family vacation guides are attached to area field schools and are intimately acquainted with their territory. To the delight of their flock, they are also invariably spontaneous and enthusiastic.

FOR PARENTS wanting a thoroughly Israeli adventure together with their offspring, the family vacation is the answer to a prayer. Not only are children (from age five) kept busy during non-hiking hours, but they participate actively in each trip as the guides make history and their surroundings come alive.

During a visit to Tel Yotvat, for example, guide Tamar herded all the children into a large cave, explaining that it was probably in here that Yosef Ben Mattityahu—Josephus Flavius—convinced the 40 survivors

of the battle to kill each other off, leaving Josephus free to surrender to the Romans. The story was told dramatically, with the kids held spellbound. At ancient Zippori, guide Noa described the once flourishing city and had the children reconstruct it—with stones, pine needles and anything else they could find.

We covered an enormous amount of territory during our vacation, including an unusual trail around the top of Mount Tavor and a cliff walk on the Arbel. There were also special activities in the evenings. Children and adults alike enjoyed slides and stories about animal and plant life in the area (kids loved the snake tales). Bingo Hagalit, night walks and kumzitzim were part of the programme which included an evening visit to the lovely new Mesha Museum, featuring exhibits depicting life in Kfar Tavor from 1901 to 1948.

The city of Yotvat was the last stand and only Galilean command post of Josephus Flavius. We reached the site of Tel Yotvat after parking at the moshav of the same name. Described by Flavius in *The Jewish Wars* as being surrounded by an abyss on three sides, the cave-riddled tel is loaded with pottery. Guide Tamar promised that within a few weeks the hill will be covered with squills (*haizavim*) that proclaim the coming of autumn.

FROM YOTVAT we drove to Mitzpe Hammarit, five-and-a-half years old and inhabited by 20 families who



The view from Karnel Hittin.

(Shmuel Bar-Am)

practise transcendental meditation and sell organically grown herbs "for tea and medicinal purposes." Convenient observation points are accessible on either side of the settlement with gorgeous views of Bikat Sakhuin from one side and Bikat Netofa and the national water carrier on the other.

After a short lunch break we were off to Karnel Hittin, a mountain with two jutting "horns." It was the site of the fierce battle where the Crusaders were devastated by Salah o-Din—a scene we could practically see as our guides vividly described it.

The climb to the southern "horn" is marked by SPNI "cassats"—coloured lines outlined in white. Protestants place the Sermon on the Mount at Karnel Hittin and we passed a monument to the sermon as we ascended. At the top, we were rewarded by a breathtaking view of Ramat Arbel and Mount Nitai, and through the split between Karnel

Hittin and Nitai an equally magnificent view of the Kinneret.

Walking towards the northern "horn" we could see Mount Arbel and as we continued, Jethro's tomb suddenly came into sight. Located at the bottom of the mountain, the tomb is the most important Druse holy place in Israel.

AS FAR AS I was concerned, the jewel in the crown was a day in ancient Zippori. The city, a quiet village during Roman times, burst into life when Rabbi Judah Hanassi decided to make his home there. At Zippori, he compiled and canonized the Mishnah and turned the area into a new spiritual centre.

Our guides commandeered a key from the Santa Anna Monastery (where the driver parked our bus) and took us down the hill to the remains of a Crusader church. The church was built over an earlier synagogue and a mosaic inscription in Hebrew from that period has been found.

Archaeological digs are well into their second year at the top of the mountain and they have unearthed evidence of an extremely prosperous city. A most exciting find was an entire theatre which we reached by passing pomegranate trees and sabra plants bursting with ripe fruit.

Although you would be missing our guide's descriptive explanations (and the convenience of a driver who knows exactly where to wait for you), individuals without guides could take many of the trips that we did. (Tamar warns, however, that it would be dangerous to do the caves

at Rovma on your own as you could easily get lost in their labyrinthine.)

If you do decide to take some of these trips, or to do any kind of outdoor travel on your own, let the SPNI field school in the area know where you are and when you plan to return. Field schools also offer assistance in planning trips and if they have room, will even let you sleep there for a minimal fee.

For those who prefer touring with the SPNI, doing the out-of-the-ordinary with people who prefer silently gazing at rock badgers to barbecuing at the beach, there will be a number of three-to-five day family vacations during the coming holidays. Some are "private car vacations" while others are taken in buses and cost slightly more.

Each field school in Israel has its own specialty: Allon Tavor includes horseback riding by the Kinneret, Eilat vacationers go snorkelling, and Har Miron offers a piano recital in the midst of nature.

The following field schools will be holding three-day family vacations during Rosh Hashana: Golan (at Katzrin), Har Miron (Achziv), Allon Tavor, Hof Hacarmel (at Ma'agan Michael), Har Gilo (Jerusalem), Ein Gedi, Har Hanegev, and Eilat. There will also be longer Succot Family Vacations with some geared especially to *shomrei masoret*.

People who understand no Hebrew at all and need English guides must get in touch with the SPNI. Call Tel Aviv headquarters for details and registration (03-382501) or your city's branch of the SPNI.

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"PERHAPS we can find a book in English about the Gallapagos in this shop," I said, in Hebrew, on a side street in central Quito. Neither my companion nor I expected anyone in the vicinity to recognize the language we were speaking, much less to respond.

But the young man walking just behind us not only understood; he answered. "No, that's just a souvenir shop. On the next street, you'll find a shop with books in all languages—except ours, of course."

Finding a Hebrew-speaker in the capital of Ecuador was just about the last thing we'd expected. Particularly when the young man's linguistic feat was duplicated by his pretty companion.

The Hebrew, and the couple's appearance, assured us that we had run into two representatives of what is now a well-known phenomenon. Young Israelis who, after the army, do not make their almost obligatory trip abroad to the fleshpots of Europe or North America, but join an international band of young travellers in search of adventure and the exotic in the jungles and mountains of South America.

In the local vernacular, they are called *muchilleros*, which comes from the Spanish word for the kind of knapsack most of them favour.

"Our" *muchilleros*, it turned out, were a young man from a kibbutz and a young woman from Tel Aviv. They had got together, by chance, after their release from the IDF, and had been in South America for almost a year.

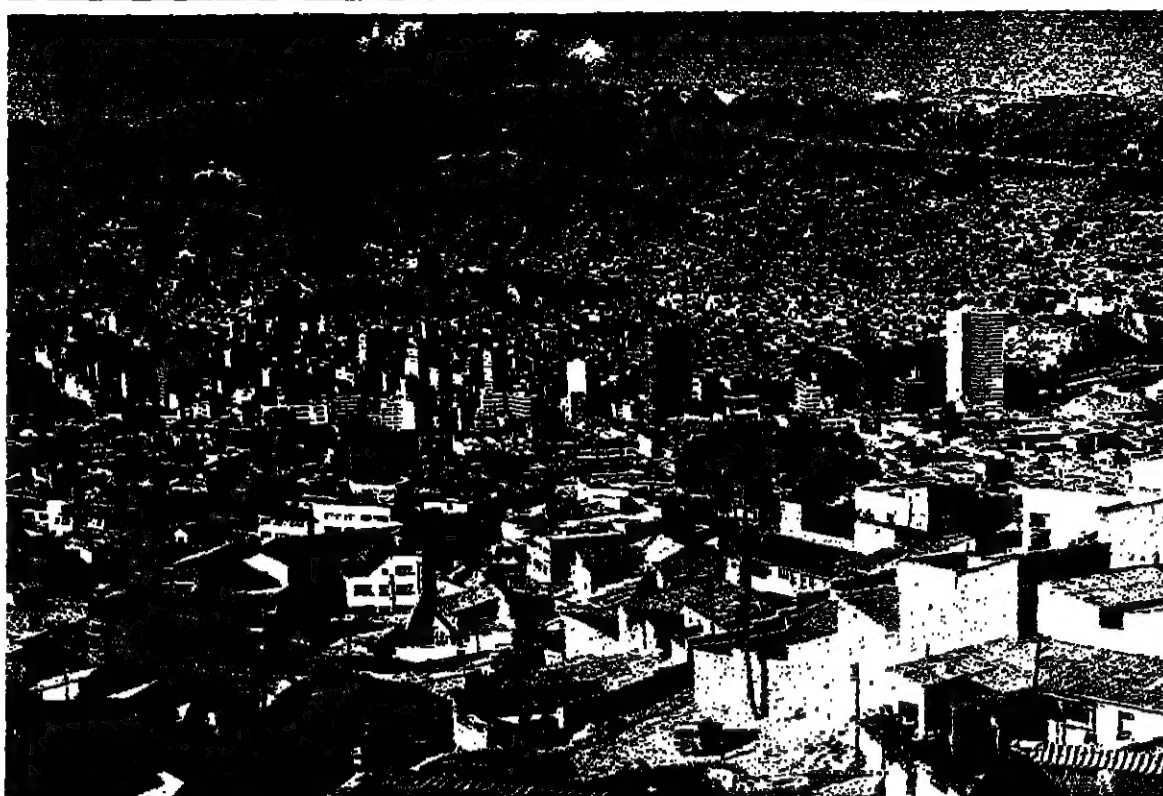
They'd come to Ecuador after spending time further south, in Peru and Bolivia. When were they going home? Neither of them knew, but it might take them another year to have their fill of the continent which is *terra incognita* to most of us.

Money? They didn't need very much they said. No five-star hotels for them. They were able, and willing, to find accommodation and sustenance among the locals, and they had very little compunction about drinking the water or eating the food.

That sounded strange to a pair of Israelis whose hosts on a tour of the continent had warned them against even brushing their teeth with water from the tap of the city's most elegant hotel. But we accepted their apparent negligence when we recalled our relatives from the U.S., who

Banana republics—and black markets

Hanan Sher takes a trip to Ecuador and Bolivia, where European ways have failed to displace the indigenous Indian culture.



La Paz, Bolivia

did the same thing with clearly safe Israeli water.

We were most taken with our young acquaintances' fascination with the countries they had visited. "They are really part of another world," one said, "which you will not understand even after your week's stay."

They could not have been more correct. A week in Ecuador and Bolivia only showed us how much we did not understand, could not understand, of the ways of two countries where 400 years after the *conquista*-

dores captured the land, the European culture imported by the invaders had not displaced the older ways of the Indians.

Some examples may be in order:

QUITO is a western city, at an elevation of "only" 2,800 metres, in one of the "lower" chains of the majestic Andes. Tall buildings, shops and traffic, the smell of gasoline and woodsmoke which seems to pervade every Latin American metropolis. The residential quarters where most Quitans of European descent live are pretty much like nice

neighbourhoods anywhere.

But on the outskirts of the city—and even on its main streets—there is substantial evidence of another, older culture. Indians in black bowler hats sell their wares, mostly handicrafts, on street corners. Even in the city centre, there is evidence of the poverty that has driven them from the countryside to town, in search of some of the white man's plenty.

As in most of its counterparts in Latin America, the last decade or two have seen a migration of Indians from the subsistence level of life in the countryside to the slums and

poverty of the city. But the Indians find it difficult, if not impossible, to return to the simple life of the country side, and just as impossible to keep pace with the frantic pace of Western urban life. So they stay, on the fringes, and exist as best they can.

A VISIT to Latacunga, a couple of hours' drive from the capital, is an entry into the world of the Indians. Dominating the scenery as we drive through rugged country is the snow-covered summit of Cotopaxi, a volcano that has not erupted for many decades. The silent menace of Cotopaxi is increased when we realize that we are only about 400 kilometres south, on the same chain of mountains, of the Nevado del Ruiz and Armero, where 25,000 people were buried alive by that volcano's eruption last November. Aren't people worried about Cotopaxi? Isn't it also likely to erupt, and engulf the surrounding area?

The last time Cotopaxi erupted, we are told, was about 70 years ago. And the flood of lava and mud did just what it had done in Armero. But people stay, apparently accepting the eventuality of death by disaster, and building farms and homes and towns under the shadow of the sleeping giant.

Latacunga is a market town and people come from far and wide to seek bargains in handicrafts at half the price you'd get them for in the city. There are not very many handicrafts, but a lot of Indians, most of them selling farm produce.

We are most impressed by the fruits and vegetables: tomatoes which would make any Carmel Market vendor nod in admiration; maize and citrus, and about a dozen different varieties of bananas.

Ecuador, we are told, is the world's leading producer of bananas, a veritable "banana republic," one might say.

We try to photograph the Indians, but they are intent on avoiding our lenses. Undeterred, we pose one of our group in front of the vegetable stand of a likely photographic subject, and tell him to move away just before we click the shutter.

This works a couple of times, but most often fails, and we decide to try the direct approach.

"Wouldn't you like us to take your picture back to Jerusalem, the Holy City?" we ask one toothless couple in their mid-thirties in our pidgin

Spanish. "Why do that, when you can take us back—to work in your house," they answer.

THE AIRPORT at La Paz is at an elevation of more than 4,000 metres above sea level. At that elevation, us sea level folk are constantly short of breath, and even the briefcase we bring off the plane seems to be more than we can carry.

We've arrived at night, and in front of our hotel we notice several bundled-up forms, clearly asleep. When we get up in the morning, we go down to investigate, and see that there are blankets spread on the pavement, with chewing gum and a few small items displayed. The vendors, apparently, slept on the street all night in order to preserve their places—although few of them seem to be doing any business.

Along the main avenue of La Paz, people are standing at every stoplight with wads of money in their hands. What are they doing? Seeking to buy dollars, of course.

Even to an inflation-hardened Israeli, the Bolivian peso's inflation rate is as breath-taking as the elevation. Even the most simple items are quoted in millions; someone says that the Bolivian inflation rate is around 2,000 per cent.

If you ask about the effect of such an astronomical inflation rate on the Bolivian economy, you get a surprising response—"Which economy?" For Bolivia has its own equivalent of Israel's "black economy." There, it is called "the parallel economy," and is entirely based on the cocaine trade. Locals estimate that the parallel economy is roughly equivalent to the official Bolivian GNP.

Without cocaine, one wonders how Bolivia would survive. The Indians who make up roughly 90 per cent of the population of four million souls all seem to chew the leaves of the coca plant; it both suppresses hunger and helps deal with the altitude.

La Paz, the capital, is built along a deep ravine which runs downhill from the Altiplano, the "High Plain" where the airport is situated. The wealthy of La Paz live far down the hill, at an altitude of 3,700 metres or so, where the oxygen content of the rarefied mountain air seems almost enough to allow one to breathe; the city centre is about 100 metres below the heights.

Like the airport, the squatter town where 300,000 "refugees" from the

hinterland live, is at the highest elevation. "It is something like a Borochovan pyramid, with very different social implications," quips one member of our Israeli party.

LAKE TITICACA, the highest navigable body of water in the world, is immense. It takes us two hours in a high-speed hydrofoil to get half-way across.

The lake is on the border between Bolivia and neighbouring Peru, and its shoreline is shared by the two countries. The waters of the mammoth lake are patrolled by the remnants of the Bolivian navy (*Armada Boliviana* in Spanish), which sailed in the Pacific until the late '40s, when Bolivia lost its coastline in a war with Peru.

The weather is stormy and chilly, but one Indian in the reed boats for which the lake is famous ventures out for us. We stop at the Island of the Sun, and are overwhelmed by a rainstorm as we attempt to get to the ancient Indian shrine which, according to legend, is the birthplace of the Incas.

Headed east for lower—and warmer—climates, our airline stops in Santa Cruz, on the Bolivian edge of the Amazon basin. The contrast with the heights is striking; so is the modern airport, with its flashy shops and duty-free goods. Even in transit, we feel that we are in a different world.

There is, of course, a good reason for the show of prosperity in Santa Cruz. The city is in the heart of the coca belt, with drug factories and small airstrips hidden away in the green jungle.

GETTING to western South America is not very difficult for Israelis these days. It does entail a flight to Europe, and a change-over. Our route, via Lufthansa, took us from Frankfurt to Quito (13 flying hours). From there, the plane goes on to Lima, the Peruvian capital on the coast, and then rises near the top range of the Royal Andes for its flight to La Paz.

You do not have to be a *muchillero* to make this kind of trip. The flight is not cheap, but the rest of the trip can be handled reasonably. We found that prices were about half those of Europe for food and accommodation, at the top or near-top level. And there are certainly things to see, and to experience, in a world very different from ours.

For museum-lovers only

David Geffen

"THE MUSEUMS of Israel mirror the country, a land both ancient and modern, a crossroads of civilization and a melting pot of a people returning to its homeland from a hundred countries. They are treasure houses of archeology, folklore and ethnology, of art, ancient and modern, of crafts, primitive and sophisticated." (*Guide to Museums, Ministry of Tourism*)

This description characterizes the many museums throughout the length and breadth of the country, but here we will discuss only those museums north of Tel Aviv.

ISRAEL RAILWAY MUSEUM. This museum is located on the grounds of the east railroad station in Haifa at Kikar Feisal. Placed in 1983 because of the devotion of retired railway employees and the efforts of local "train buffs." In the first building one finds the history of the railroad in Eretz Yisrael, since 1892 depicted via photographs, drawings and memorabilia. There is even a 1933 handbill given to passengers as they boarded the train stating that "lemons are not allowed to be taken past the Zichron Ya'acov station." Models of trains and signalling equipment, some even flashing, make this part of the exhibit quite appealing.

The train barn only 20 or 30 metres away contains the real treasure for railway devotees. Here one finds a few engines, several types of railroad cars and the exquisite royal coach. This is a "hands on" exhibit where climbing is permitted—entering into cars is allowed and becoming an engineer is encouraged.

The royal coach made by the Brit-

ish in the 1920s for kings and queens, dukes and duchesses, emperors and pashas, was left for the Israelis in 1948. When the Israel Defence Forces needed a special railroad car during the Six Day War for use in the Sinai, this one was loaned to them. Completely refurbished, the wood-paneled walls and the tiled floors glisten.

Going outside again, one can mount the switching car and try giving it a short run. Open daily from 10-1. This museum is a must for children and train buffs.

The defence needs of Israel have provided material for local museum planners. While Jewish military heroes of ancient days are recalled in various exhibits, the history of the Jew as soldier in this century can only really be documented in the country where the Jews maintain their own standing army.

BEIT HAGEDUDIM. The Jewish Legion (World War I) Museum. Located in Avihayil, just north of Netanya, this museum commemorates the Jews from North America and Canada who, as volunteers, fought in the 38th and 39th British Battalions in Palestine in World War I. Established through the work of the Jewish Legion veterans and the Ministry of Defence, the museum has varied exhibits dramatizing the efforts of this unit's soldiers.

Pictures and data about a specific individual who served may be found in the hundreds of individual files which are maintained. Among notable legionnaires was Gershon Agron, who founded *The Jerusalem Post* as well as being a mayor of Jerusalem. Open daily from 9-3, Friday and holiday eves 10-1.

MUSEUM OF CLANDESTINE IMMIGRATION AND ISRAEL NAVAL MUSEUM. The striking feature of this museum, which looks out to the Mediterranean, is the restored ship *Al-Al-Pi-Chen*, which houses part of the collection. Used as an illegal immigration ship in the 1940s to run the British blockade, it has been refurbished and placed in this imposing locale.

On entering the ship's hold, one can relive this period of Israel's history. One sees the cramped conditions in which Holocaust survivors made their way across the sea in an attempt to reach Israel, only to end up in Cyprus if their ship was intercepted by the British. In the ship are documents and photographs depicting the illegal immigration—*muqbilim*—from 1934-1948.

Thousands of Jews made aliya in this fashion and their story is told in a 10 minute documentary film. Listening to a one-time illegal immigrant

who works there describe her voyage, one wonders where people amassed the courage to get to this land in spite of everything.

Another section of the museum portrays the history of the Israeli navy. Models of early vessels, gunnery positions, sighting devices, maps and photographs focus on the origins and development of this branch of the IDF. When the sophisticated naval vessels of today are compared with those of the past, it is hard to believe that all this occurred in less than 40 years. Located on Haifa's Allenby Street, just off the Tel Aviv-Haifa highway, the museum is open daily from 9-3 and on Friday until 1.

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM. Only 100 metres away from the above, still on Allenby Street, is this superb museum. It contains a rich collection of the Mediterranean's maritime history. Included are archeological finds from the sea and finds relating to the great sailing ships which plied the waters off our coast. Nautical maps from ancient eras to the last century give one a sense of the cartographer's interest in the area. There are surprises in every corner of the museum and the entrance floor regularly houses a loan exhibit. Presently on display are the works of Ben Zion, the American artist who has been one of the museum's major benefactors. Open daily 9-3, closed Friday and Saturday.

THE GOLANI BRIGADE MUSEUM. This museum captures the spirit of the Golani Brigade through the architecture and symbolism of its site. Situated on a rocky hill at the Golani Junction (with adequate parking and accessibility for wheelchairs), its seven structures were specifically planned to provide the visitor with a better understanding of the nature of combat in which this particular brigade has been engaged.

The museum pays tribute to the fallen and charts the major campaigns in which Golani fighters have been involved. Maps and battle plans, photographs, reliefs and audio-visual programmes provide something of interest for every age. Open daily from 9-4, on Friday until 1 and on Saturdays and holidays from 9-5.

Since Israel is such a varied country in its terrain and artefacts, efforts have been made to develop museums which focus on a specific locality. In this way these areas take on more meaning to those visitors who tread their paths.

BEIT STURMAN. Established in 1941, Beit Sturman at Kibbutz Ein Harod presents archeological finds from the Beit She'an Valley and the slopes of Mount Gilboa. Surrounding the building are numerous Roman milestones which have been collected from fields which were once Roman roads. Canaanite and

Egyptian statues, synagogue lintels and church mosaics from the area are also on display. The draining of the Hula swamps in the 1920s is documented as well. Open daily from 8-4, on Friday until 12, and on Saturdays and holidays from 9-12.

BEIT USSISHKIN. A natural history museum opened in 1955, this museum, on Kibbutz Dan is now located in a "perfectly balanced building" planned by the architect Leo Krakauer. Containing an excellent display of the plant and wild-life of the Hula region, Beit Ussishkin also has many dioramas highlighted by stuffed animals and fowl, native to the area. Close by is the beautiful nature reserve of Tel Dan, where the sources of the Jordan flow. Open daily from 9-12 and from 2-4 on Fridays.

WILFRED ISRAEL HOUSE OF ORIENTAL ART. Upon entering Kibbutz Hazorea, one is immediately impressed by the gardens in which the House of Oriental Art is situated. The collection on display was willed to the kibbutz by Wilfred Israel, a German Jewish communal leader and Zionist enthusiast. During World War II he was killed while returning to England from a mission to rescue European Jews via Spain and Portugal. The museum contains an expertly organized exhibition of Chinese, Indian and Cambodian art. Call the kibbutz at 04-993168 to be sure of the hours when the Israel House is open.

The Travel section was edited by Amy Levinson.

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Carta's Official Guide to Israel

A splendid kit for the serious tourist, includes a huge road map in two parts and the 468 page guide. Its most impressive feature is the gazetteer, which lists and describes every place name on the Israeli map. Comes with a leatherette pouch. PRICE: IS 19.27

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Thermofridge a cool operator

Simson L. Garfinkel

THE SECOND Law of Thermodynamics sets limits on how much usable energy can be recovered from waste heat. Generally, the hotter the source of the waste heat, the more energy can be recovered. The Second Law also states that no matter what is done with energy - any kind of energy - in the end, heat is always generated.

While industry generates a lot of waste heat, explained Shai Vardi, general manager of Thermofridge Co. Ltd., most of the energy is thrown away, because the temperature isn't high enough. For example, in the production of electricity from coal or oil, 35 per cent of the energy in the fuel is eventually turned into electricity, while the remaining 65 per cent becomes waste heat in the 40-100C. range.

"Co-generation is defined as making use of this waste heat for heating or cooling purposes," said Vardi. Advocates of co-generation say that it saves fuel costs, since a greater proportion of the energy in the fuel is utilized.

While co-generation has been a popular idea in the United States since the mid-70s, the idea has not gained much popularity in Israel. In this country's hot climate, the major energy expense in running a building

is not heating, but air-conditioning. While the 40-100 degree temperature of waste heat is fine for heating, it can't be used to air-condition buildings. At last it couldn't until Thermofridge, a one-year-old Beersheba-based company, started to manufacture its revolutionary chiller.

THE PRINCIPLES on which the Thermofridge operates are over a hundred years old, explained Vardi. The system is basically a heat-pump which transfers heat from a high temperature source to a low temperature sink. In transferring the heat, energy is produced that can be used "pump" heat out of - that is, to chill - a third heat source. The heat from the third heat source is also transferred to the sink.

A second way to cool air is to use a compression chiller. This system typically uses electricity to drive a compressor, which in turn produces refrigeration. Compression chillers became cost effective in the early '70s because of several technological developments in air compressors. But compression chillers require electrical or mechanical energy to operate - they cannot work on heat alone.

The Thermofridge chiller is unique because of the range of tempera-

tures on which it operates. While other absorptive chillers on the market require the high-temperature heat source, such as steam, to operate, the Thermofridge chiller can operate on hot water in the 60-100 degree range. This makes the Thermofridge chiller ideal for use with waste heat, taking energy that would be otherwise thrown away and putting it to work.

According to Efrin Starovsky, the company's manager, eight different patents contribute to the chiller's overall efficiency. The patents are licensed to Thermofridge by Tadiran.

ONE IMPORTANT feature of the Thermofridge is that whereas most chillers use a mixture of water and ammonia as a refrigerant, this uses a mixture of water and lithium bromide. While chillers based on ammonia must be constructed with stainless steel to prevent corrosion, Thermofridge parts can be made with copper, making it less expensive. Also, the use of ammonia chillers in the U.S. is heavily regulated, especially in the food industry, since ammonia is poisonous. These regulations make competing chillers more expensive to install and operate than the Thermofridge unit.

Another unusual feature is the limitation of its moving parts to two small pumps and the absence of controls. The circulating pumps located at the base, need only be

inspected every three years, said Starovsky, and that is all the maintenance required. The lack of controls means that there is nothing to go wrong, added Vardi, and eliminates the energy losses associated with control systems.

Thermofridge produces an entire line of chilling units, the smallest capable of cooling a 2,000 sq.m. office building, the largest capable of providing "600 tons of refrigeration" - for a building that would use 600 window air-conditioners," said Vardi. This unit "could easily cool a building the size of the Shalom Tower."

In addition to air-conditioning, the Thermofridge unit can be used for a variety of other purposes. It can be run in reverse as a very efficient heat pump for heating buildings. In an industrial plant that uses pressurized air, it can be employed to dry the air, and it can be powered by the hot oil used to lubricate the air compressor. In general, the system can be used wherever chilling is needed and waste heat is being produced.

The firm hopes to market its chillers primarily in the U.S., and Vardi said that one chiller has already been sold to a company in the San Francisco area. But, the firm is also submitting a proposal for a co-generation plant in Eilat which would provide several hotels with both electricity and air-conditioning.

U.S. drug agents catching the scent

Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

UNTIL NOW, customs officials have had to rely on sniffing dogs or their own sixth sense to catch narcotics smugglers. But a prototype of a machine that "sniffs" out dangerous drugs has been developed by U.S. Customs Service researchers, and it promises to be a much more reliable way of detection.

Passengers at air terminals or ports will merely be forced to walk through the narcotics vapour detector. The machine, according to the June issue of *Science* 86, has been in the making for 15 years.

The entrance of the detector is a gate made of seven intermeshing, 1.5-metre long bars. Each of these has about a dozen tiny holes called sampling ports that suck in air samples from a passenger's clothes. Two paces further inside the gate, the passenger is again sampled, this time while passing for 16 fans to blow air across the body. The vapour samples are drawn into a column on the other

side into a special sensor, of the type that was designed two decades ago by General Electric to detect freon gas leaks from refrigerators.

These vapours are mixed with chlorine gas and heated to a high temperature. If there are any drug-related organic compounds, they exchange a hydrogen atom for a chlorine atom.

A sensor finally sets off an alarm if enough of the chlorinated molecules are present in the samples. People will be able to be moved through the gate at a rate of one per 15 seconds. The false-alarm rate, claim the developers, is a low single-digit percentage, but they decline to disclose it so that "the bad guys won't find out" what their chances are of getting away with smuggling.

There are a few remaining "bugs" in the device: newly applied perfume will set off the alarm, for example. But when the device is perfected and installed at all ports, it could significantly deter smugglers from trying to sneak in drugs.

ANOTHER TYPE of detector, but less dramatic, is a disk manufactured in Kansas City, Missouri, that tell you if there are pesticide residues in water, fruit, other produce or soil.

Called EnzyTec, the disc costs \$5 per sample, compared to \$100 to \$300 for a laboratory analysis. It should come in handy for farmers, produce merchants and natural-food addicts who want "clean" fruit and vegetables.

IT WAS inevitable that the violin, the aristocrat of the music world, would be switched on by electricity. Road Instruments, a company in Toronto, is manufacturing electric violins that "can hold their own against rock-group instruments yet retain the rich tones of classical traditions."

The violins contain a "proprietary transducer" that produces electricity when subjected to mechanical stress. This produces amplification without distortion.

But the company, says an article in *Science Digest's* June issue, does not displace string players.

The violins, as well as electrified violas, cellos and contrabasses, will

help financially-troubled orchestras that can afford only a few string musicians, says the manufacturer. The switched-on instruments costs anywhere from \$4,000 to \$7,500.

BRAIN TRANSPLANTS are a long way into the future, and just the thought of it strikes horror in the minds of many. But an Israeli neurologist is investigating the transplantation of individual brain cells in rats as a way of eventually treating Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases.

The work of Prof. Menachem Segal of the Weizmann Institute of Science is still in a very experimental stage, but he has already shown that rats with memory defects due to brain damage regain some memory function when appropriate cells from normal rats are transplanted into the damaged region. He has also cultured brain tissues to examine the transplantability of nerve cells.

Since Parkinson's and Alzheimer's involve progressively debilitating symptoms caused by irreparable damage to certain nerve cells, this work is viewed as important.

Territories find most routes to economic growth blocked

By AVI TEMKIN

Post Economic Reporter

During the 1970s, as the Israeli economy slowed down, and the world economy went into recession, the West Bank developed at a very fast pace. Its gross domestic product soared by 8 to 10 per cent a year. The standard of living also rose, education levels increased, and unemployment was non-existent. From the beginning of the present decade, however, the economy of the administered territories began to stagnate, and now unemployment is casting its shadow over a labour force much more qualified and sophisticated than it was 10 or 15 years ago.

Recently Jordan offered to invest \$1.5 billion in the West Bank and Gaza over five years. If such a plan is implemented, it could have major repercussions for the territories' economy.

According to Dan Zakai, a senior

out one-fifth of the men aged 18-34 in the West Bank have 13 years or more of schooling.

The problems facing such a population are mounting. In recent years the West Bank's GDP has risen by no more than 1 to 2 per cent. Unemployment, which was nil some five years ago, now reaches 5 per cent of the labour force. Even these latter figures understate the dimension of the problem. The available figures for the 18 to 24 age group, which represented 60 per cent of the unemployed in 1984, suggest that unemployment is positively correlated with the level of education. Some two-thirds of the unemployed had over nine years of schooling. In addition, Zakai says, the concealed and disguised unemployment, which is not reflected in the figures, should be taken into account. Many educated youngsters start "working" with a relative although there is little need for them.

In the past, emigration to the Gulf states and to other Middle East countries served as an outlet for this population. Now, as the economies of these countries have slowed down, the chances of getting a job there are remote. "The long-term employment prospects for these youngsters is no better," says Zakai.

Be that as it may, in terms of human resources the West Bank has the educated and qualified manpower necessary for economic growth. Zakai thinks the spirit of entrepreneurship is also there. "The Palestinians have the initiative, they are men of commerce," says Zakai. Their natural market is the Arab world, and West Bank entrepreneurs have close links with the Arab market.

But Zakai also stressed the formidable problems and limitations facing the economic development of the West Bank: political instability, the lack of financial channels, a narrow industrial base, as well as the clash of interests with Israel and Jordan, between which the West Bank must maneuver.

Any development drive would have to start from a very narrow industrial base. Less than 10 per cent of the GDP originates from industrial activity. In addition there is a very inadequate infrastructure. Zakai thinks that there is an urgent need to invest resources in telecommunications and the public transportation system.

Among the obstacles facing the potential investor is the need to get not only the formal authorization of the Israeli authorities, but also the no less important informal permission from Jordan and the Palestinian Liberation Organization. In recent years even the agreement of the "official" PLO may not prove sufficient; some of the factions of the organization may conclude they do not like the project, or the men undertaking it. Their veto can be a violent one.

Zakai also points out that the West Bank is a potential source of competition for Jordan's economy. In the past Jordan tried to limit imports from the West Bank, and Jordan itself is an exporter of agricultural goods, and thus does not want competition from the territories.

Israel too has been a source of limitations and barriers. There is a ban on the export of certain agricultural goods from the West Bank to Israel. In addition, changing political moods have also affected the territories. In 1983 a strict limitation on the import of foreign currency into the territories was imposed although some liberalization has recently been felt.

Even if all these obstacles are cleared, these is still one more hurdle

dile: the necessary resources may be lacking. Zakai stressed that there is almost no way an entrepreneur can raise capital in the West Bank from other persons' savings. There are no domestic or Jordanian banks, and the population deals as little as possible with Israeli banks.

Many money changers have taken on some of the functions of the banking systems, especially those dealing with deposits. But a proper financial system channelling savings into investments is lacking. "No bank in Jordan is going to lend money to a resident of the West Bank if the only collateral he can offer are assets in the West Bank, since there would be no way that the bank could take possession of this type of collateral if the need arose," says Zakai.

The result is that only small-scale local projects on a family basis are undertaken. This therefore favours investment in construction for residential purposes, since it offers them.

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dile: the necessary resources may be lacking. Zakai stressed that there is almost no way an entrepreneur can raise capital in the West Bank from other persons' savings. There are no domestic or Jordanian banks, and the population deals as little as possible with Israeli banks.

Many money changers have taken on some of the functions of the banking systems, especially those dealing with deposits. But a proper financial system channelling savings into investments is lacking. "No bank in Jordan is going to lend money to a resident of the West Bank if the only collateral he can offer are assets in the West Bank, since there would be no way that the bank could take possession of this type of collateral if the need arose," says Zakai.

The result is that only small-scale local projects on a family basis are undertaken. This therefore favours investment in construction for residential purposes, since it offers them.

In the past, emigration to the Gulf states and to other Middle East countries served as an outlet for this population. Now, as the economies of these countries have slowed down, the chances of getting a job there are remote. "The long-term employment prospects for these youngsters is no better," says Zakai.

Be that as it may, in terms of human resources the West Bank has the educated and qualified manpower necessary for economic growth. Zakai thinks the spirit of entrepreneurship is also there. "The Palestinians have the initiative, they are men of commerce," says Zakai. Their natural market is the Arab world, and West Bank entrepreneurs have close links with the Arab market.

Any development drive would have to start from a very narrow industrial base. Less than 10 per cent of the GDP originates from industrial activity. In addition there is a very inadequate infrastructure. Zakai thinks that there is an urgent need to invest resources in telecommunications and the public transportation system.

Among the obstacles facing the potential investor is the need to get not only the formal authorization of the Israeli authorities, but also the no less important informal permission from Jordan and the Palestinian Liberation Organization. In recent years even the agreement of the "official" PLO may not prove sufficient; some of the factions of the organization may conclude they do not like the project, or the men undertaking it. Their veto can be a violent one.

Zakai also points out that the West Bank is a potential source of competition for Jordan's economy. In the past Jordan tried to limit imports from the West Bank, and Jordan itself is an exporter of agricultural goods, and thus does not want competition from the territories.

Israel too has been a source of limitations and barriers. There is a ban on the export of certain agricultural goods from the West Bank to Israel. In addition, changing political moods have also affected the territories. In 1983 a strict limitation on the import of foreign currency into the territories was imposed although some liberalization has recently been felt.

Even if all these obstacles are cleared, these is still one more hurdle



GNP/GDP GROWTH		(real compounded annual rate of change, per cent)			
		1969-1975	1976-1980	1981-1982	1983-1984
West Bank and Gaza	GNP	14	7	3	2
	GDP	10	8	0	1
Israel (business sector)	GNP	7	3	1	2
Jordan (GDP)		0	12	7	4
Saudi Arabia (GDP)		8	8	-5	0

economist at the Bank of Israel Research Department, and author of several reports on the territories' economy, one must see the plan in its proper perspective. The Jordanians have said the money will be invested if the funds can be obtained from other Arab countries. Given the economic hardships which the Middle East is facing, it is difficult to see how such funding will be found. "In the past, decisions regarding much smaller amounts of money were not implemented," he says.

If, however, contrary to expectations, the plan is implemented, it would have a tremendous impact on the territories' economy. The West Bank is badly in need of development. Zakai describes its situation in rather gloomy terms. He says its young, well-educated population faces an underdeveloped economy, and the threat of unemployment.

The proportion of men in the West Bank aged 14 years and over with nine or more years of schooling rose from 22 per cent in 1970 to 45 per cent in 1984. In that year there were 10,000 students enrolled in higher education institutions in the West Bank, and 4,000 in Gaza. Ab-

TOURISM BRIEFS / Michal Yudelman

Achille Lauro still popular despite hijacking

Neither terrorism nor political turbulence can deter the Israeli when it comes to travelling. More than 200 Israelis are expected to sign up for a cruise to South Africa aboard the Achille Lauro, the ship which was hijacked last year by Palestinian terrorists.

The luxury cruiser, on whose deck American tourist Leon Klinghoffer was shot during the hijacking, leaves Ashdod port on November 22 on its way to Durban, via Port Said, the Suez Canal and the Seychelle Islands.

Despite the fears of the ship's South African and Israeli operators, that its popularity might decrease

following the hijacking, some 160 Israelis took the cruise last year, after the hijacking.

Itamar Domb, of the ship's Israeli operators Malchis Agencies, said an Israeli security agency will protect the passengers, in addition to the ship's permanent security team.

FEWER TRAVELLERS passing through Ben-Gurion Airport may force the Airports Authority to cut its budget, the authority's director-general Zvi Gov-Ari said this week. "If we don't get three million travellers coming through the airport this year, it will be a very difficult year," he said.

The authority's revenues have been hurt by the falloff in the number of foreign tourists coming to Israel this year, as well as the frozen shekel-dollar exchange rate, he said.

This year's budget is based on forecasted revenues of \$60 million, with outlays of \$42m., not including development expenditures. With the shortfall in revenue, Gov-Ari said, the authority would have to fire 45

workers and cut other expenses.

He noted that the number of travellers passing through the airport was up 7 per cent last month from the previous month, but was still down 3 per cent from a year earlier.

ISRAELIS ARE CHANGING their recreation habits: they prefer two or more short vacations to one long vacation a year, and they are beginning to take more vacations in Israel, the managers of a leading domestic tourism company said yesterday.

Marking the company's 25th anniversary, co-manager Dvora Dviri said yesterday that Kal has sold 50,000 domestic recreation days in Israel during the first six months of the year.

Kal co-managers Avi Ziv and Zvi Gendelman said their concern works with some 60 hotels throughout the country, including kibbutz guest houses, which the company obtains at reduced charges for tourists. Kal, whose services are free of charge, offers a weekday night in Eilat's Aviya Sonesta for NIS 106 a couple per night, compared with the regular fee of NIS 150.

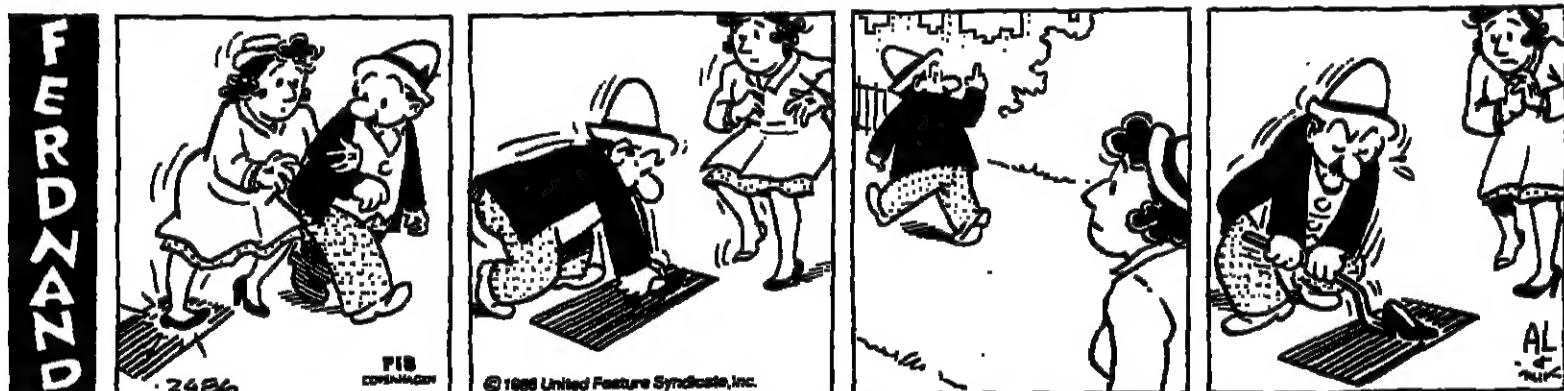
Industrie, to look at cooperative ventures to get their share of the \$250b. worth of orders expected in the next 14 years.

"We are demanding more and more from the airplane and the engine," Worsham said. "All of us are involved in international consortia - it's the way of the future."

But he would not comment about discussions with Airbus about the development of a long-range airplane. High-level talks have been going on for several months on possible collaboration as the firms seek to break Boeing's lead in the long-haul sector dominated by the jumbo 747.

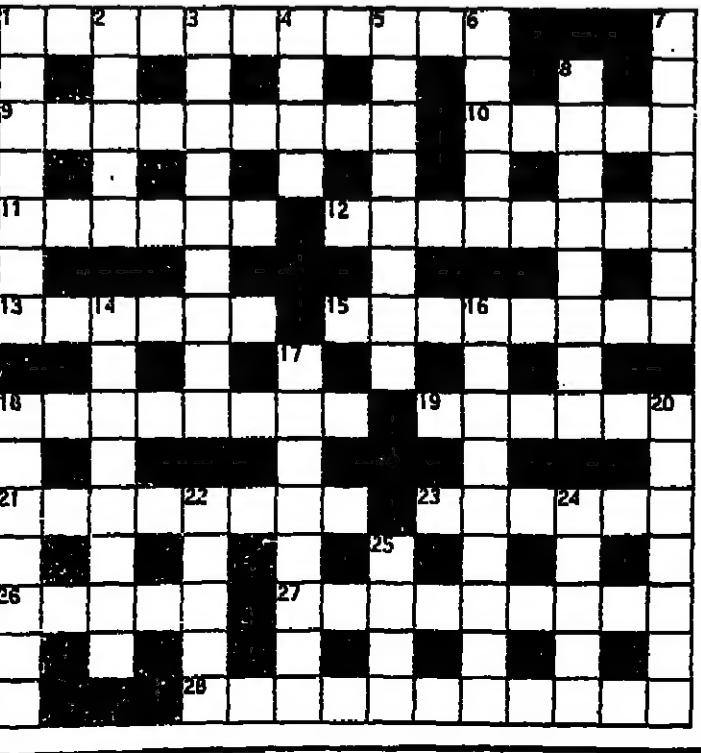
Addressing a three-day conference on aerospace trends to the year 2000, Douglas Aircraft President Jim Worsham said some 10,000 long- and medium-range planes worth \$400 billion were expected to be in service by the turn of the century.

But the soaring cost of increasingly sophisticated technology has forced Douglas and fellow industry giants, Boeing and Europe's Airbus



ONE-ON-ONE CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- But it won't go without pressure (4-7)
 - Expert on food tips to pass on to the painter (9)
 - Shrub bearing French cheese flower (5)
 - They're about right for carrying fish (6)
 - One in role is an enthusiast (8)
 - He trod trembling over these snails (3-5)
 - Get a grasp on the act of buying (8)
 - Pipe, maybe, more suitable as a weapon (8)
 - Leave helpless wit! a bit of a yarn (6)
 - Madder family member about 17 (8)
 - Way in which cases are thrown round about (6)
 - See fit to listen to one from Copenhagen (5)
 - Native inception Lincoln grasped (9)
 - In the arms of Morpheus after a drunken orgy? (6,5)
- DOWN**
- Cocktail in passenger transport (7)
 - Place to take a rest, for example, in Belgium (5)
 - Large pantry evidently not overstocked (5-4)
 - Eager to help around teatime perhaps (4)
 - Like the fabulous king one finds drink hard to get in this case (8)
 - Sailor embraced by a desalter in Morocco (5)
 - Could be eroding a French waterway (7)
 - Rupured sink has a capital location in Zahe (8)
 - Check in blustery rear wind (4,4)
 - Instructor about to teach unruly first form (9)
 - Exhaustive process in the sewer (8)
 - Put behind bars—with noisy outcome, it appears (5,2)
 - Such protest sends one crazy given time (7)
 - No time for tennis at Clare's place (5)
 - Taking in, for example, the negative principle of Chinese philosophy (15)
 - Commonly become speat aboard (4)



GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Romema, 523191; Balaam, Salah Edin, 723215. Shu'afat, Shu'afat Road, 810108; Dar Aldeha, Herod's Gate, 282058. Tel Aviv: Bnei Yehuda, corner Telodan, Bnei Yehuda, 28 King George, 283731. Netanya: Kamel, Kiyat Nordau commercial centre, 51774. Haifa: Hadassa, 53 Horev, 282214.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Shaare Zedek (pediatrics), Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, obstetrics, surgery, ophthalmology), Hadassah Scopus (orthopedics), Bnei Yehuda (E.N.T.). Tel Aviv: Rokah (pediatrics, internal, surgery). Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE 100

Dial 100 in most parts of the country. In Tel Aviv dial 524444, Kiyat Shimon 4444.

FLIGHTS

24-Hours Flight Information Service: Call 03-9712484 (multi-line). Arrivals Only (Taped Message) 03-381111 (20 lines).

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Protective covering
 - Circular
 - Place of worship
 - Verify
 - Rhetoric
- DOWN**
- Large mammal
 - Insect
 - Scout
 - Not long ago
 - Scope
 - National flag (5,4)
 - Orders
 - Photos (anag.) (2,3,4)
 - Some
 - Calendar
 - Dog
 - Salt water
 - Angered
 - Apex

FIRE 102

In emergencies dial 102. Otherwise, number of your local station is in the front of the phone directory.



QUICK SOLUTION

ACROSS: 7 Rhodes, 8 Weaver, 16 Fatuous, 11 Drunk, 12 Cone, 13 Frank, 17 Slang, 18 Free, 22 Haven, 23 Eclipse, 24 Cornet, 25 Breze. DOWN: 1 Prefect, 2 Content, 3 Demon, 4 Pendant, 5 Spout, 6 Drake, 8 Estranged, 14 Flannel, 15 Tripper, 16 Referee, 19 Shack, 20 Avert, 21 Clerk.

'Jet makers will have to cooperate'

LONDON (Reuters). - The cost of modern airlines has risen so high that international cooperation among major manufacturers is virtually inevitable, leaders of major aerospace companies said yesterday.

Addressing a three-day conference on aerospace trends to the year 2000, Douglas Aircraft President Jim Worsham said some 10,000 long- and medium-range planes worth \$400 billion were expected to be in service by the turn of the century.

But the soaring cost of increasingly sophisticated technology has forced Douglas and fellow industry giants, Boeing and Europe's Airbus

MARKET PLACE

DAVID KRIVINE

Controlling the price of petroleum

In the last decade international oil prices have fluctuated vertiginously—up from \$3 a barrel in 1973 to a peak of \$40, then down again in recent months to below \$10. Is this a healthy situation?

Prince Claus of the Netherlands thinks not. Addressing a seminar in Stavanger, Norway, last May, he pointed out that "oil companies are cutting back drastically on their oil-exploration efforts." In due course the world may face a shortage of petroleum.

He concluded: "An oil price that is too low for too long bears the seed of a third oil crisis."

The question is whether the price of this commodity should be stabilized. Shalom Schirman, the Foreign Ministry specialist on the subject, thinks it should. He recalls an idea thought up by Henry Kissinger, then U.S. secretary of state, in response to the initial petrol-price explosion in 1973. Kissinger recommended matching the oil producers' cartel, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, by creating a cartel of consumers, so that oil prices should be negotiated as between equals.

The timid European countries were aghast at the prospect of an economic war between the U.S. and Opec. An International Energy Agency (IEA) was set up as Kissinger urged, but stripped of the key function that he had in mind.

His idea, says Schirman, was that the IEA should fix the price of oil at \$7.50 a barrel, a fair price at the time—covering production costs while not yielding excessive profits. Today the figure should be adjusted upwards, allowing for inflation. A sensible tariff would be, one premises, somewhere between \$10 and \$15 a barrel.

The IEA would preserve that equilibrium by buying oil when prices drop and selling it again when they rise. Where would it get the capital for such operations? Prince Claus suggested that all countries impose an excise-tax on oil imports. Governments would use the money to purchase shares in the buffer-stock agency.

Claus added that since the present low price of oil saves a lot of money to the industrialized nations they should utilize part of the levy to aid the Third World. This would make up for the declining contribution of Opec members who can no longer afford to be so generous. (Saudi Arabia will be running in 1986 a \$20 billion trade deficit for the fourth consecutive year.)

According to Schirman, the IEA sponsors none of these things. All it does is monitor the consumption of oil in different countries. Should one of them be denied the supplies it needs owing to an embargo or some other cause, the agency is supposed to ensure delivery.

Would not a price-stabilizing arrangement conflict with the whole-some market mechanism of supply and demand? Usually that is true, says Schirman, but primary commodities seem to be a case apart. They generally involve a trade-off between developed and developing countries. Many of the commodities—coffee, sugar, tin, copper—are subject to organized marketing systems. These are successful if properly run, which is not always the case.

Long-term investments are needed for the development of energy resources, and some kind of balance has to be achieved between alternative power sources. The Soviet Chernobyl disaster, following on the American Three Mile Island accident, is causing all countries to take a second look at atomic energy.

There are a lot of oil reserves still underground and particularly under the seabed. Demand for the familiar fossil fuel may go on rising while more research is devoted to nuclear safety. The price situation must be such as to encourage a reasonable expansion of supplies.

Says Schirman: "The stabilized price should turn out to be near the average price that would be paid over a period of time in the absence of a stabilization programme." The cost of oil would be no different in the long run, the difference is that it would cease to fluctuate.

Import stockpiling will boost trade gap

By AVI TEMKIN

A massive stockpiling of production inputs, fuel and rough diamonds will boost Israel's trade deficit in 1986 to \$2.5 billion, Ruth Loewenthal, the Treasury's economic adviser, told reporters yesterday.

Loewenthal said the increase in the deficit was largely due to a decision to enlarge the stock of fuel to take advantage of the low prices of the last months. The price of oil fell well below \$10 a barrel, before staging a recovery in the wake of the August 6 meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. They have since held steady in the middle teens.

Inventories of rough diamonds increased, as did production inputs. She estimated the increase in imports due to enlargement of inventories to be about \$500 million.

Loewenthal predicted that gross domestic product would remain stagnant this year, rising only 1.3 per cent, behind the growth in population. Government consumption will show a drop of 2.2 per cent, reflecting a 3.5 per cent reduction in military spending and a cut of 0.7 per cent in civilian government expenditure, she said.

Loewenthal said that in addition to higher imports of production inputs and fuel, imports of consumer goods also increased. Private consumption is due to rise 10 per cent, and imports of consumer durables will rise 40 per cent from 1985 levels. She added that, in constant prices, civilian im-

ports would rise 17.4 per cent in 1986 compared with last year. But they would not result in a net change in the balance of payments because of the fall in fuel prices, she added.

Loewenthal told reporters that even after taking into account the increase in the trade deficit, Israel is due to finish 1986 with a \$370m. surplus in its current account. If the money spent on imported goods being kept in inventories is not counted, then the surplus figure would be close to \$900m., she said.

Measured investment is due to rise by 10.7 per cent in 1986, mostly because it includes investment in inventory. Actual investment in fixed assets is expected to decrease by some 4.2 per cent, she said.

Loewenthal estimated that exports would rise by about 6 per cent in 1986, despite claims by exporters that they are dropping. She warned that there is no proof that greater subsidies or incentives for exports lead to larger numbers of goods being sold overseas. According to Loewenthal, exports seem closely correlated with the volume of world trade. They are also influenced by the degree of restraint on domestic demand, she added.

Loewenthal claimed that the recent disappointing export figures were due to the crisis in the world electronics industry and a fall in demand abroad for chemical goods. Excluding these sectors, which are affected by developments over which Israel has no influence, exports have increased 20 to 30 per cent, she stressed.

WORLD BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Major U.S. banks cut prime rates

NEW YORK (AP).—Major American banks began cutting their prime interest rates—the lending rate charged to their most creditworthy customers—to their lowest levels in nine years.

The move belatedly follows the Federal Reserve Board's decision last week to cut the discount rate—the rate the central bank charges commercial banks for loans—to 5.5 from 6 per cent. The Fed had expected the commercial banks to follow its lead in cutting their primes, but the first bank did not do so until Monday night.

Wells Fargo Bank led the parade, cutting its prime to 7.5 per cent from 8 per cent, effective yesterday. Others to follow yesterday included No. 5-ranked Morgan Guaranty Corp., No. 10 First National Bank of Chicago, Continental Illinois and Harris Trust and Savings. All cut their rates to 7.5 per cent.

By pushing interest rates lower, the Fed hopes to stimulate the sluggish U.S. economy.

THIRD WORLD DEBT may exceed debtor nations' ability to pay unless urgent, just and durable solutions are found to the problem, a declaration drafted for the non-aligned movement's summit next week.

The declaration, prepared by host Zimbabwe, said the leaders of the 101-member non-aligned movement view "external debt as an international obligation which should be honoured." However, the draft document said "the financial obligations undertaken by developing countries with creditors from the developed countries and multilateral institutions have become unbearable."

The foreign debts of the developing nations have ballooned in recent years. The total debt of Latin American nations alone amounts to around \$380 billion.

COFFEE PRICES rose sharply again on the London market yesterday, hitting a four-month high, as traders returned from a long holiday weekend with a forecast of a much-reduced Brazilian crop fresh in their minds.

The Brazilian Coffee Institute last week put the 1986-87 crop of the world's biggest producer at just 11.2 million bags, following a drought, down 25 per cent from the previous estimate made three months ago.

Coffee futures for delivery in November were trading around \$3.36 a metric ton yesterday, their highest levels in 16 weeks and showing gains of almost \$148 from pre-weekend prices, dealers said.

Over the past 2½ weeks, prices in London have risen more than \$740 on worries over Brazil's crop.



Two models perform a double role at Summer Fashion Week yesterday, displaying swimwear and entertaining buyers with guitar and flute music. (Isaac Harari)

Fashion Week notes

Exports up; buyers few

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Jerusalem Post Reporter

For the past five years, the organizers of Israel Fashion Week blamed the decline in exports and the scarcity of buyers on the weakening of European currencies against the U.S. dollar.

This year, with the dollar sinking steadily against European currencies, exports have registered a respectable 28 per cent gain in the first six months from the same time in 1985. But fashion week organizers had to cast about for an explanation for the small turnout in buyers from abroad. Barely 100 are in attendance.

They did not have to look far. They hitched a ride on the bandwagon of the slump in tourism. If fear of terrorism is scaring away tourists, certainly fashion buyers must be hesitant to come to Israel, as well.

Moshe Gulos, chairman of the Fashion Centre at the Israel Export Institute regards Israel's fashion industry as a showcase for international window shoppers. At the opening of Israel Summer Fashion Week at Jerusalem's Laromonte Hotel, he stressed the importance of buyers making contact with manufacturers even though they may not place orders here. If they liked what they saw, he said, they would recommend certain companies to buyers in other departments in their stores and they would be more inclined towards writing orders when Israel participated in fashion fairs in Europe or the U.S.

Two years ago, recalled Yohanan Levy of the Ministry of Industry and

Trade, the fashion press was set to write the obituary notices for Israel's fashion industry. However, since the signing of the free-trade-zone agreement with the U.S., fashion exports to that country have picked up and a number of major American companies have shown an interest in finding production outlets in Israel.

When Fashion Week was at its zenith in the late 1970s, there were buyers from more than 20 countries. This year only nine countries are represented with the overwhelming majority of buyers coming from West Germany and the U.S. Britain put in a very poor showing with only three buyers.

Despite the increase in fashion exports in the first half of the year, the Israel Export Institute, under whose auspices international trade fairs are organized, is aware that exports are still far below levels prior to the European recession. Fashion exports for the whole of 1985 amounted to \$265 million and \$148m. in the January-June period. But fashion exports peaked just before the turn of the decade to slightly in excess of \$300 million.

Yair Ofek, head of the export institute's consumer-goods division, said future marketing efforts would focus on bringing Israeli merchandise to the buyers' home countries, rather than the other way around. A group of 15 Israeli jewellers who held solo shows last month in Los Angeles, Dallas and Chicago were so successful that the export institute is seriously contemplating the transfer of Israel Jewellery Week to New York. It will also conduct more Israeli solo fashion shows in New York.

FINANCIAL DATA: ISRAEL, EUROPE, U.S.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

SHEKEL INTEREST RATES
PRIME BORROWING RATE: 1.25% per month
Unlinked Deposit (Annual Rates)

	Last Updated	Tapas	Pakam 7-Day	Pakam 30-Day
LEUMI	26.8	7.17.5%	8.17%	8.18.25%
HAPOLIM	7.7	8.14%	8.14%	9.16.50%
DISCOUNT	12.8	8.16.50%	8.16%	10.19%
MIZRAHI	8.5	8.16%	8.15%	9.17%
FIRST INT'L	22.1	8.15%	7.17%	8.17%

Rates vary according to size of deposit.
(Tapas: demand deposit paying daily interest.
Pakam: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 59 days.)

PATAH—FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES (August 26)

	MINIMUM DEP	3-MONTHS	6-MONTHS	12-MONTHS
USD (\$100,000)	5.250	5.250	5.375	5.375
Swch (10,000 pounds)	8.775	8.750	8.625	8.625
DMK (100,000 marks)	3.875	3.875	3.750	3.750
SFR (50,000 francs)	3.625	3.625	3.625	3.625
YEN (3,000,000 yen)	3.250	3.000	3.000	3.000

Rates vary according to size of deposit and are subject to change.

SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES (August 26)

	CHEQUES AND TRANSFERS	BANKNOTES	Rep.
	Buy	Sell	Rate
Currency basket	1.4820	1.5010	1.4820
U.S. Dollar	1.4758	1.4842	1.45
Deutsche Mark	0.7221	0.7311	0.71
Pound Sterling	2.1842	2.2114	2.14
French Franc	0.2203	0.2220	0.21
Japanese Yen	0.9577	0.9686	0.94
Dutch Florin	0.6393	0.6473	0.63
Swiss Franc	0.8953	0.9075	0.88
Swedish Krona	0.2138	0.2166	0.21
Norwegian Krone	0.2016	0.2042	0.20
Danish Krone	0.1908	0.1933	0.19
Finnish Mark	0.3007	0.3044	0.30
Canadian Dollar	1.0583	1.0715	1.04
Australian Dollar	0.8865	0.9077	0.84
S. African Rand	0.5638	0.5708	0.57
Belgian Franc	0.3436	0.3479	0.34
Austrian Shilling	10.10252	10.380	1.01
Italian Lira	1000	1.0478	1.02
Jordanian Dinar	1	—	4.19
Egyptian Pound	1	—	4.79
ECU	1.5148	1.5338	—

SUPPLIED BY BANK LEUMI

EUROPEAN FINANCIAL MARKETS

(August 26)

PRECIOUS METALS

GOLD: LONDON A.M. FIX 379.30 P.M. FIX 381.10
PARIS NOON FIX 380.02 ZURICH P.M. 378.25
SILVER: LONDON P.M. 512.25
PLATINUM: LONDON P.M. 594.25
PALLADIUM: LONDON P.M. 142.00

FOREIGN CURRENCY CROSS RATES (London 15.30GMT)

	SPOT	2 MTHS	3 MTHS	6 MTHS
DEUTSCHMARK	2.0473/83	52/47	81/76	151/141
POUND STERLING	1.4830/40	89/87	130/127	248/243
SWISS FRANC	1.6510/20	51/48	74/69	143/133
JAPANESE YEN	154.05/15	35/33	55/53	114/110
EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT	1.0259/63	29/24	39/34	48/38
ITALIAN LIRA	1410.00/50	1400/1500	1900/2000	3550/3700
DUTCH GULDEN	2.3105/12	30/26	45/41	92/84
BELGIAN FRANC	42.385/400	12.5/14.5	19/22.5	32/37
DANISH KRONER	7.7375/50	325/375	530/580	1200/1300
S. AFRICAN RAND	5.381/23	22/15	30/23	48/38
FINNISH MARK	1.0259/63	29/24	39/34	48/38
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	0.8865/87	77/81	98/103	180/178
NORWEGIAN KRONER	0.8099/97	86/83	123/118	213/207
Formula for determining forward rates: High/Low (eg. 220/210) — deduct from spot price. Low/High (eg. 210/220) — add to spot price.				

NEW YORK FINANCIAL MARKETS

(August 26)

U.S. MONEY RATES

Prime rate 8.00-7.50%; Broker Loan 7.00%-6.87%; NY
Euros 3 months 5%-4%; Fed Funds late 5¼%

NEW YORK FOREIGN EXCHANGE

	DMK	SFR	STG	YEN	CAN
PREVIOUS CLOSING	2.0410/20	1.6430/40	1.4800/10	153.65/75	1.3942/47
OPENING	2.0470/80	1.6490/00	1.4820/30	154.30/40	1.3945/51
LATEST	2.0575/85	1.6585/90	1.4805/15	155.40/50	1.3948/51

Comment

The dollar eased back slightly yesterday after reaching a high of 2.0620 Deutschmarks. But it was still bolstered by speculation that the West German central bank will announce some interest rate action after it meets tomorrow. However, a poor outlook for the U.S. economy, no matter what steps are taken to stimulate growth abroad, helped curb gains.

ISRAELI STOCKS

TRADED IN NEW YORK:

NYSE and ASE

	Last	Prev. Close	High	Low	Vol ('00s)
Alliance	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	10
Amir Pap	15 1/2	14 1/2	15 1/2	14 1/2	48
Amir (eg. 220/210)	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	135
Elscint	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	77
Ez Lavud	9 1/4	10	9 1/4	9 1/4	2
Lezer Inds	12 1/4	13 1/4	12 1/4	12 1/4	95

Over the counter

	last	bid	ask	last	bid	ask
Bank Leumi	7 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	Interpharm	—	4 1/4
Elbit	7 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	Interpharm	—	4 1/4
ECI Tel.	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	Rada	—	5 1/4
Elron	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	Schex	—	4 1/4
Elron	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	Taro-vit	—	3 1/4
IDS Bank	—	—	—	Tevapharm	—	4 1/4
IDS Bank	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/4	SPI	—	2 1/4

WALL STREET Closing Prices (August 26)

	DOW JONES	NYSE	HIGH	LOW
IND	1,964.25	+32.48	DUQUESNE	14 1/4
TRANS	774.00	+12.25	TEXAS UT	3 1/4
UTILS	217.72	+3.35	GOULD INC	21 1/4
55 STKS	757.24	+12.13	ATT	24 1/4
NYSE COMP	145.16	+2.50	MOBIL	36 1/4
NASDAQ	380.28	+1.02	IBM	141
S-P 100 INDEX	237.64	+4.96	EAST AIR	—
S-P COMPOSITE	282.34	+5.05	OWENS-CORN	80 1/4
AMEX INDEX	222.28	+2.34	EAST KODAK	57 1/4
			EXON	68

Statistics

NYSE VOL 155,880,020 STOCKS UP 1,111 DOWN 527

NASDAQ VOL 74,803,400 (Aug. 26) STOCKS UP 832 DOWN 1211

Comment

Wall Street stocks continued to climb in active trading yesterday. Oil shares moved up, reacting to indications that Norway will cooperate with the Opec production agreement. Stronger bond prices and futures-related buy programmes lend support to the market, analysts said.

IBM rose 1 1/4 to 140 1/4. In the oil, Exxon gained 2 1/4 to 67 1/4, Chevron 1 1/4 to 44 1/4, Mobil 1 1/4 to 36 1/4 and Atlantic Richfield 1 1/4 to 57.

OVERSEAS FINANCIAL DATA

PROVIDED BY REUTERS MONITOR

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Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

MARKET STATISTICS

Indices:	Turnovers:	4.25% fully-linked	Mixed/falls slightly
General Share Index	Shares—total	80% linked	Mixed/falls to 1%
Non-Bank Index	Arrangement	Double-linked	Mixed
Arrangement	Non-Bank	Dollar-linked:	
Insurance	Bonds—total	Admon	Falls to 0.5%
Commerce, Services	Index-linked	Rimon	Falls to 0.5%
Real Estate	Dollar-linked	Gilboa	Falls to 3%
Industrial	Treasury Bills	For. Curr.	denominated
Textiles		Treasury Bills	Stable to 1%
Metals		(annual yield)	18.3-19.2%
Electronics			
Chemicals			
Industrial Invest.			
Investment Cos.			
General Bond Index			
Index-linked Bonds			
Fully-linked			
Partially-linked			
Dollar-linked Bonds			
Short-term 0-2 yrs			
Medium-term 2-5 yrs			
Long-term 5+ yrs			

Share Movements:	Advances	233	(157)
	of which 5% +	61	(28)
	"buyers only"	8	(6)
	Declines	58	(98)
	of which 5% +	8	(11)
	"sellers only"	2	(1)
	Unchanged	96	(124)
	Trading Halt	29	(36)

Bond Market Trends:			
Index-linked			
3% fully-linked	Stable to 1%		

Arrangement yields:			
IDB ord.	16.27%		
Union 0.1	16.22%		
Discount A	16.30%		
Mizrahi r.	16.24%		
Hapoalim r.	16.15%		
General A	16.18%		
Leumi stock	16.27%		
Fin. Trade 1	15.73%		

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What status quo?

TWENTY MEMBERS of the Knesset, apparently anxious to prove their vim and vigour and dedication to their duties even during the summer recess, have put their names to a petition circulated by the Alignment's Rabbi Menahem Hacohen, asking that parliament be reconvened without delay to discuss a national emergency: the launching of a flea-market on Shabbat by Kibbutz Nir Eliahu near Kfar Saba.

With a mighty legislative hammer, these deputies would squash the latest flea that threatens to disturb the hallowed status quo in state-religious matters.

The status quo - meaning the commitment to preserve it given in a letter by David Ben-Gurion, then still in his capacity as chairman of the Jewish Agency, to Agudat Yisrael leader Rabbi Yitzhak Meier Levin so as to enlist that anti-Zionist party's support for the idea of a Jewish state, back in 1947 - is indeed still viewed as the right basis for the peaceful coexistence of religious and not-so-religious, or just plain secular, Jews in Israel. It is also the basis for alliances between the major political parties that do not define themselves in religious terms, and the religious parties.

In order to be able to count on the backing of the religious parties for a narrow coalition centering on the Alignment, Premier Shimon Peres must, or at least feels he must, be seen to uphold, if not the principle of the Shabbat sanctity, then of the inviolability of the status quo provision on Shabbat.

That is why Mr. Peres has advised his cabinet colleague, Ya'acov Tsur, a leader of the United Kibbutz Movement, that the flea-market must go.

On the face of it, it all seems but a bad joke, or a case of summer boredom. A large number of kibbutzim and moshavim have long kept shops and bazaars, not all necessarily in their backyards, operating on Shabbat without anyone raising a fuss. The practice was accepted because it was understood that, so long as the necessary permits had been obtained, or were unnecessary, such rest-day mercantile affairs were the affairs of none but their sponsors.

Nir Eliahu's offence was to hold its rented-out flea-market out in the open, and even to allow - if not to invite - television to make a show of it. The publicity was and should be good for sales - this kibbutz, like many others, is strapped for cash - but it drew excessive attention. The best publicity, however, was the downpour of vituperative criticism over the alleged violation of the status quo.

What violation of what status quo? The Ben-Gurion letter made it "clear that the official day of rest of the Jewish state will be on Shabbat," and went on to provide an exception in the case of non-Jews, who "will be granted the Shabbat on their days." The purpose was plainly to ensure that no Jew in his sovereign state would be required to work on Shabbat. It was not to prevent town Jews from getting together freely for a cultural activity on Shabbat morning, nor to bar kibbutz or moshav Jews from organizing a flea-market on that day if they so chose.

But even if it was, such supposed violations are dwarfed by the massive expansion, through both legislation and convention, of the rabbinical writ into the nation's life that is a travesty of the status quo as originally conceived.

The old status quo is dead. A new consensus on state-religious relations should be negotiated. If the Knesset uses the Nir Eliahu flea-market as a platform from which to launch a serious discussion about the proper role of Jewish religion in the Jewish state today, its otherwise needless special session will be easily forgiven.

Chernobyl's grim truth

WHEN RADIOACTIVE winds blowing across the Soviet frontier four months ago revealed to the West the fact of a bad nuclear mishap somewhere in the Ukraine, they brought in their wake some badly exaggerated media reports. One such report spoke of 10,000 dead from the blast in what turned out to have been the nuclear reactor of the Chernobyl power plant, who were buried in a mass grave in the countryside. Moscow, which fed such rumours first by its complete silence and then by its stinginess with facts, was scandalized.

It charged a deliberate Western campaign of vilification. Everything, it contended, or most everything, was under control down at Chernobyl.

Well, not quite. Slowly but surely the attempted cover-up began to crumble, and to disclose the true dimensions of the disaster. Now at long last the Soviet authorities have come out to tell the whole - or nearly the whole - truth, as they see it, about Chernobyl. They did so in an official scientific report to the International Atomic Energy Commission, and in a Moscow press conference chaired by leading Soviet nuclear officials.

The picture that emerges is of a terrible catastrophe, which, but for a stroke of luck, might have taken a turn even for the worse. A catastrophe which no other country, no matter how superior its nuclear equipment or personnel may be or will be to the Soviet, can shrug off as irrelevant.

The toll of dead from the mishap is now set at 31 who were in or near the reactor at the time of the explosion. This is a rather low figure when set against, for example, the 2,000 or so reported to have been killed in the toxic gas eruption in Cameroon. But that Chernobyl figure does not include the 203 currently suffering various degrees of radiation sickness, who to all intents are already doomed, nor the 6,530 radiation-affected persons whom the Soviet experts expect to die of a variety of cancers during the next several decades.

The damage wrought by Chernobyl is not confined to the human toll. Some 135,000 persons are now conceded to have been evacuated from a contaminated area of more than 300 square miles around the plant, which is being entombed, with considerable difficulty, in a cement grave. Topsoil is being removed from an area of 1,000 square miles.

But whose responsibility is the catastrophe itself? The Soviets put the blame squarely on plant workers who threw safety regulations to the wind in order to carry out a dangerous and unauthorized experiment, which they were unable to stop when its implications became obvious.

What the Soviets do not bother even now to query is why so irresponsible a bunch of workers was placed in charge of so sensitive a plant. Nor how Soviet designers could have built a nuclear plant that so easily lent itself to destruction through unchecked human error or stupidity. Nor, for that matter, why it was that the news from Chernobyl was so slow in being transmitted to Moscow, and why Moscow itself sought so hard to suppress the news.

The intended Soviet answer to these questions may well be that, never mind the past: Mikhail Gorbachev's declared policy of glasnost - or openness - underlying the official Chernobyl reports, will itself serve as a corrective in the future. But for genuine openness to replace the all-pervasive Soviet secretiveness in the service of the official big lie, the entire system may have to be overhauled. And that will take time, at best.

In the meantime, as Mr. Gorbachev pointed out in a televised speech, experts warn that "the explosion of even the smallest nuclear warhead is equal to the radioactivity of three Chernobyls."

The arguments over Taba

Simon Tamir

FOLLOWING complex and prolonged discussions, the cabinet accepted on August 13 the arbitration compromise on Taba, an issue which had caused considerable deterioration in relations with Egypt since a protocol was signed between the two countries on Taba on April 23, 1983. The question to be asked is: what are the legal, political and economic arguments with which each side will try to convince the arbitration panel to justify its respective claim to a strip of coast that altogether comprises less than one square kilometre?

The Israeli claim goes back to pre-Mandate borders.

Israel's claim that Taba is on its side of the border with Egypt is based on political, military and economic factors. The central political claim rests on the fact that Taba was not under Egyptian sovereignty during Ottoman rule. The evidence is that a firm of the Sublime Porte issued in Constantinople in 1841, and a map attached to this firm, spoke of Egyptian administrative authority only, and not sovereignty, over the Taba area.

The main purpose of that firm and of those that followed was to secure the route for pilgrim caravans on their way to Mecca.

Incidentally, a legal fact worth mentioning here is that the Egyptian copy of the original map attached to

the 1841 firm was destroyed in a fire at the Egyptian state archives. What remains in Egyptian hands today is the copy of the Turkish map. Accordingly, Taba was within Palestine at the time of the Mandate, and assertions that the British, through Lawrence of Arabia and his men, in 1916 "moved" the border 1,250 metres inside Palestine to further British regional interests, is completely rejected by Israel.

Another point in the Israeli case is undoubtedly that Taba is located in the military and economic security strip of the southern front with Egypt and Eilat's Free Trade Zone - and this because of Egyptian statements and comments hostile to Israel, in which Taba is presented as a strategic danger to the Sinai peninsula and the Suez Canal.

However, most important in Israel's view is the fact that leaving Taba in Israeli hands can prevent the Egyptians from using Taba as a "model" if they win, in order to return Israel to the 1967 borders in whatever future negotiations with Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

Taba as Egypt's eastern gate

Contrary to Israeli claims, Egypt bases its claims on the Mandatory border determined by the League of Nations in 1922 and ending with the 1979 peace agreements with Israel. Egypt also rejects the central Israeli claim that in 1906, Taba was not

within Egyptian borders. Even the Sublime Porte in Constantinople did not succeed in altering Egyptian sovereignty over Taba, neither before nor after the death of the Khedive Tewfik in 1892.

Nevertheless, in order to appreciate the importance that the Egyptians ascribe to Taba and its historical, political and economic aspects - what they call "the eastern gate of Egypt" - it is worth noting that among the voluminous research written on this subject, is the comprehensive research of Dr. Ezzadine Faude, professor of international law at Cairo University and "the legal brains," apparently, behind Egyptian arguments to the arbitrators in the future. According to Faude, the entire region, from the Gulf of Akaba (in which he includes Taba and Eilat) to the Sinai Peninsula and the Suez Canal, has to be a "natural buffer" against any Israeli expansion in the future, from the sea or the land, even in the period of peace between the two countries.

In his opinion, Israel is part of the game of military and economic interests of the Great Powers in this vital region. Thus, indirectly, he rejects Israel's claim regarding future security for her southern border with

Egypt. Incidentally, to his credit, he does not ignore the fact that the Taba area in ancient times was called the Gulf of Eilat and also Etzion Geber. If we add to all this recent statements by President Hosni Mubarak and Dr. Ali Lutfi and others claiming that it is an inseparable part of Egyptian soil, historical and geographically, one must ask: Will these arguments stand up in the arbitration process?

The Eilat free trade zone - a danger to inter-Arab trade

The more Egyptian free trade ports, like Alexandria and Port Said, decline into further inefficiency (today they are called "one big graveyard for all our hopes for investment and foreign currency revenue"), so grow the voices from Egyptian government and economic circles regarding the very location of the Eilat Free Trade Zone, which, they say, presents a real danger to the future of sea and land trade between Egypt and the rest of the Arab world, and in particular, the Persian Gulf states.

According to all the data, the free trade zone in Akaba, and at the new ferrying port at Nuqba, in the Sinai, that operates between Jordan and Egypt, did not weaken one whit Eilat's Free Trade Zone. Dr. Faude also fears possible Israeli capture, in the not too distant future, of Arab-world markets, and of Israel becoming

the "chief agent" for the penetration of American and other goods and manufacturing plants, and in time, will replace "Beirut port" in the development of banking, financial and tourist services for all Middle Eastern countries. This way, he says, Israel would realize its Zionist dream - "from the Tigris to the Euphrates."

At a recent economic and trade symposium in Egypt to discuss that country's grave economic situation, participants found that the most fitting answer to Eilat's Free Trade Zone would be to convert the Suez Canal area and the entire Sinai Peninsula into one big free trade zone.

Egyptians regret to this very day that they rejected an American proposal to convert the Aqaba area south of Suez into an American-Egyptian free trade zone. Today, they are trying to re-interest the U.S. in this subject in order to weaken the standing of the Eilat Free Trade Zone, in the framework of the international arbitration.

Now, one should hope that the way has been opened for a return of normalization between the two countries and for the renewal of the peace process between Israel and the rest of its neighbours in the region.

The writer is a Jerusalem-based Orientalist and economist.

Those safety programmes don't work

Paul E. Slater

THE DECISION to make a massive investment in more safety education in elementary schools, driver education in high schools and defensive driving courses for adults is a tragic mistake. These programmes don't work.

The single programme for teaching children to cross the street safely, proven effective in the U.S., is unknown in Israel. We continue to give our children safety instruction that will not reduce their chances of death, lifetime disfigurement and disability.

High school driver education in the U.S. and England has been shown repeatedly to be ineffective. It has been phased out in the last five years after it was proven to increase deaths and injuries among young drivers. In Israel, more youngsters than ever before are being exposed to this menace. The U.S. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has concluded that defensive driving

courses for new drivers, old drivers, dangerous drivers and drunken drivers do not change crash rates. In Israel, defensive driving instruction is a new growth industry.

Common sense would seem to dictate that if you tell someone about a danger, and explain to him how to avoid it, his risk will fall. Unfortunately, this notion does not hold water in real life. In America, junior high school courses on the dangers of drug addiction led to an increase in drug use. High school instruction on methods of birth control led to more out-of-wedlock teenage pregnancies. Gun club instruction on safe gun handling led to more gun injuries. It is high time responsible government leaders learned the harsh lessons of these sad facts.

Not one traffic safety education programme in Israel has ever been subjected to scientific testing, even though the methods to evaluate these programmes are straightforward

and the expertise is available. Would any responsible health minister order the massive administration of an untested vaccine? Subjecting us and our children to untested "safety" education is injecting us with an untested vaccine. I don't want it and I certainly don't want us to have to pay for it.

WHAT IS the solution to the motor vehicle crash problem in Israel? There is no magic bullet, despite what our leaders would like to believe. No slogan will cure this epidemic, but there are measures, all tested and proven to work, which would be a reasonable start in the battle. Several of them were mentioned by my colleague, Elihu Richter, in The Jerusalem Post magazine

section last weekend. They cannot be stressed too often.

- A law mandating seat-belt use and proper child restraint in all vehicle passengers, front and back, on all roads, including urban routes, and enforcement of this law.
- Massive enforcement of current speed limits and an end to idiotic suggestions that speed limits be raised.
- A law defining tailgating, and enforcement of this law.
- Roadside breath testing for alcohol to get drunk off the road.
- A law prohibiting teenagers from driving at night.
- A law requiring bike-riders to wear helmets and reflectors.
- Raising the safety standards of imported vehicles to ensure gas tanks that don't explode on impact, car doors that don't burst open in a

crash, and a single high-mounted rear brake light in every car.

• The constant maintenance of road markings, particularly at pedestrian crossings.

These measures are inexpensive, can be implemented now, and they work! Plans that don't work should be abandoned. Programmes that have never been tested should be discontinued till they are proven effective. Imaginative and innovative ideas should be welcomed and tested, but never implemented until independent scientific evaluation has shown them to reduce crashes and injuries. It is unfortunate that a tragic clustering of motor vehicle disasters this summer was needed to stir up public interest in the war on crash injuries. So be it. Now let's get to work.

The writer is a member of the Seder Research Unit of the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

READERS' LETTERS

OFFENSIVE AD

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - On recent visits to the movies, we have been discomfited by an advertisement which we consider unsuitable to our children, insulting to ourselves, and indicative of outdated and objectionable societal attitudes. We refer to the advertisement for Bul washing powder.

This ad shows a husband and children leaving a dirty, untidy house to an unkempt, frumpy housewife to organize. She is also to provide clean shirts for her husband. She, unfortunate creature, whirls around, becomes a woman, and with the help of Bul, creates sparkling order. The husband returns to find the house tidy and his wife reverted to her frumpish self. An attempted

home in an indescribable mess, male whirl-around brings no results. The negative implications to which we object are the following:

1. That housewives are unkempt.
2. That women stay at home and children have the right to leave the house.
3. That it is her exclusive right and even privilege to tidy up.
4. That men do not have the capacity to do these jobs.
5. That the highest thing to which a woman can aspire is to tidy the house.

If this is the way it chooses to advertise itself, we think Bul is full of bull.

DARYLLE LEVENBACH

(Mother, family therapist, housewife) and five other signatories.

Ra'anana.

SUPPORT REFUSENIKS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - Into the middle of his otherwise erudite, carefully thought-out article about the hoped-for normalization of Soviet-Israeli relations (August 15), Mikhail Agursky implants a puzzling, even gratuitous accusation: that "various Jewish circles throughout the world help the USSR," that these "harmful Jewish alarmists" are actually a "threat to the Soviet Jews, exaggerating the cases" (of the refuse-niks).

Can Professor Agursky (whose own escape from Russia was helped by arousing outside public opinion) imagine what the status of the various imprisoned refuse-niks would have been if these so-called "Jewish alarmists" had not publicly exposed and embarrassed the Soviets, at critical diplomatic moments, into halting their routine harassment and systematic torture of Jews within the Soviet empire?

First Agursky thoroughly enumerates the political policies and personal actions by Soviet leaders regarding Jewish Soviet citizens, on one hand, and, especially, Israel, on the other, that have as single common denominator inhumanity, ruthless self-interest. Then, he tells us that "with goodwill (sic) the Soviets could solve it," i.e., the problem(s) of the refuse-niks.

At this critically delicate period, when the Soviets claim they want normalization, why should our own longtime expert on and writer about Soviet affairs weaken our position of bargaining, by casting about such poisonous darts within the Israeli and world Jewish Community that supports the refuse-niks even right now? Why should he disparage a process, that of public revelation and involvement, that has been shown to be effective in freeing refuse-niks?

R. H. BATUSHANSKY FISHMAN

Jerusalem.

JEWISH TRADITION

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - Modern biblical research daily adds new evidence to support the authenticity of the masoretic text of the Pentateuch. We owe Professor Gabriel Barkai a debt of gratitude for his work on the amulet discovered in the Hinnom Valley. However, I took a double-take when I read his unfounded statement that the amulet "might be the precursor of tefillin."

How can a scientist possibly make so unscientific a statement for which he does not possess a shred of evidence? An unprejudiced scientist might have said that, since recent literary and archaeological finds repeatedly support the masora, maybe the masora is accurate - maybe tefillin did originate with Moses. Professor Barkai surely knows that, side by side with tefillin Jews have been using amulets for thousands of years. To confuse amulets with tefillin is like confusing mosquitoes with tigers.

Anyone who has any familiarity with how the Jewish nation scrupulously, almost fanatically, protects and preserves a Sefer Torah (and has done so through the ages) from error or textual deviation would find in this alone sufficient evidence to affirm that the Torah presently in our hands is precisely as transmitted by Moses.

RABBI PINCHAS STOLPER

Executive Vice President,

Union of Orthodox Jewish

Congregations of America

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TORA TODAY

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, - Pinhas Peli devotes his Tora Today column of August 1 to praise the most barbarous revenge which can be imagined: the cold-blooded massacre of little children and women. I will simply quote the verses (Numbers 31:14-15 and 17-18):

"And Moses was with the officers of the host, with the captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, which came from the battle."

"And Moses said unto them, Have ye saved all the women alive?"

"Now therefore kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman that hath known man by lying with him."

"But all the women children, that have not known a man by lying with him, keep alive for yourselves."

This is simply genocide. You have attacked Rabbi Shmuel Elrich for advocating genocide outside your paper, but have let one of your permanent contributors do it in your pages.

ISRAEL SHAHAK

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SOUTH AFRICAN JEWS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, - Doris Linkin is quoted in your issue of July 11 as saying about South African Jews: "Once they get to Houston, they will not only be lost to Israel, but they will be lost to Zionism and possibly even to Judaism." I don't know where Ms. Linkin gets her information about Judaism in America, but just who does she think contributes the hundreds of millions of dollars raised each year in America for UJA - is it Jews who are "lost to Zionism and Judaism?"

He in our small community of Grand Rapids, Michigan, about 50 Jewish families support two synagogues, a Hadassah House, a Hadassah chapter, a Jewish cultural council that puts on several programmes a year, and the community raises about \$400,000 for the Jewish Community Fund; is that being "lost to Zionism and Judaism?"

As for South African Jews, I believe it would be desirable for them to go to Israel while the going is good. In any case, I would not urge them to stick around in South Africa where their children can grow up indoctrinated in the racial attitudes of that unhappy country. I doubt if the "wonderful Jewish community of South Africa is any more wonderful than the Jewish communities of Iran or pre-war Germany."

MARSHALL GILLER

Grand Rapids, Mich.

Grand Rapids, Mich.

Grand Rapids, Mich.

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